

PEAK & NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

HELPING WALKERS & PROTECTING FOOTPATHS
SINCE 1894



Browns Houses, Silverdale on a PNFS longer walk

Photograph by Ken Smith

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2022

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PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

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Annual Review

Kathy McLean, PNFS Chair

Welcome to this year's Annual Report for the Peak and Northern Footpath Society. What a difference a year makes. The year 2022 has been productive for the Society but not in the same way as the previous year. As life became more open, thanks to vaccinations and greater immunity to Covid-19 viruses, we benefited from additional and welcome freedoms.



Like other businesses and organisations we started to meet in person, using Taylor House, our headquarters, and other venues for larger groups. It has been refreshing to meet volunteers and members in person and to talk with new and more familiar colleagues. We recognise that meeting in groups remains challenging for some people so we have maintained a balanced approach, with some meetings in person, some entirely virtual and others hybrid.

In September, trustees and volunteers held a much-delayed session to discuss the strategic priorities for the Society. This was a rich and helpful discussion and we agreed a number of key priorities, which we shared with members at the autumn (half year) meeting in November. Each priority was assigned to a workstream led by one or more trustees or volunteers, with good progress being made in the final quarter of the year. This work will be advanced during 2023.

Our autumn meeting was a great day in Sheffield, with more members attending than expected. The morning discussions were followed by an interesting illustrated talk given by Paul Hindle on the history of maps. Some members joined John Harker afterwards for an informative walk around Sheffield.

Trustee numbers have been relatively stable this year, but our secretary Jenny Allen stood down in October, having made a massive contribution to the running of the Society. I would like to thank Jenny for her considerable work and commitment in that role. She continued as a trustee for the remainder of the year and leads on social media. We were fortunate that David Brown, a former secretary, kindly offered his services for the rest of the year.

Other activities have been thriving, with a fascinating talk series organised by David Gosling being well attended online. Walks have been reinstated, with more members joining than previously. Thanks to Shirley Addy, the range of times and locations, including weekends, has increased.

Our core work focuses on public rights of way, and relies on our ever-increasing group of footpath inspectors. Even though we have over 185 in this important role, there remain significant parts of our large geographical area which have no dedicated inspector. Equally important are our assessors, area officers and courts of inquiries officers. Meeting every other month, the Courts and Inquiries team handles the most difficult faults, where necessary using the law to support actions.

The economic and cost-of-living challenges will be familiar to you. We have been careful to review the financial position of the Society throughout the year. Paul Easthope, as treasurer, continues to give a great service to us and we remain in a healthy overall position. Our spending on footpath and bridge improvements has flourished this year, but we are dependent on highway authorities agreeing to work with us and ask for our help. Some authorities are more involved than others.

I am delighted that real progress with the development of an updated website has been made, thanks to several colleagues including Suzanne Longworth, Mel Bale, Chad Wilkinson, Debbie Pickvance and David Gosling. I am hopeful that the new website will be revealed soon. On our overall digital work, Tim Lewis has taken a lead and Stuart Proud is reviewing the way we work across the Society to ensure we are being as clear, efficient and helpful to members as possible.

PNFS signposts have continued to be made and installed, but as the number and indeed cost rises, so does the job of maintenance. Thanks to David Morton and his substantial team of volunteers, our signposts remain as key landmarks on many of our walks.

You will read more details in the Annual Report, but I hope you can see that your Society is in a strong position to meet its Objects. Thank you to each member, volunteer and everyone else who works with us to ensure that the network of public rights of way are protected and enhanced. I wish everyone a great 2023 walking and enjoying our wonderful countryside.



Unusual kissing gate on Silverdale FP19, one of the many delightful paths overlooking Morecambe Bay.

Photo by Ken Brockway

Officers and Volunteers

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Martin Hampar (Trafford,
Salford, Manchester)

John Harker (South
Yorkshire)

Andy Leader (Kirklees)

Udo Pope (Tameside)

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PATH IMPROVEMENT

OFFICER

Nigel Howe

MAGAZINE EDITOR

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David Morton*

SIGNPOST ASSISTANTS

Shirley Addy

John Alexander

Pete Ash

Steve Brown

Graham Fullerton

Merrick Iszatt

Robert Johnson

Jeremy Jones

Tim Lewis

Roger Marks

Paul Marshall

Andrew McMullan

Ross Myddleton

John Orson

Paul Spedding

John Shuttleworth

Ted Wolfe

Simon Worrall

TREASURER

Paul Easthope*

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INSPECTION

OFFICER

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INSPECTION TEAM

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Kathy McLean
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*Secretary and Office
Manager*



David Gosling
*Faults and Inspection
Officer*



David Morton
Signpost Officer



Mel Bale
*Membership Secretary
and Webmaster*



Jenny Allen
*Trustee and Courts and
Inquiries Officer*



Chad Wilkinson
Trustee



Tim Lewis
Trustee



Suzanne Longworth
Trustee



Stuart Proud
Trustee

Footpath Inspectors, Inspections and Faults

Numbers of inspectors *David Gosling, Inspection Co-ordinator and Linda Smith, Volunteers Co-ordinator*

We appointed 29 new inspectors in the year Feb 22- to Feb 23. While this was down on the previous year, it still shows a very healthy level of recruitment.

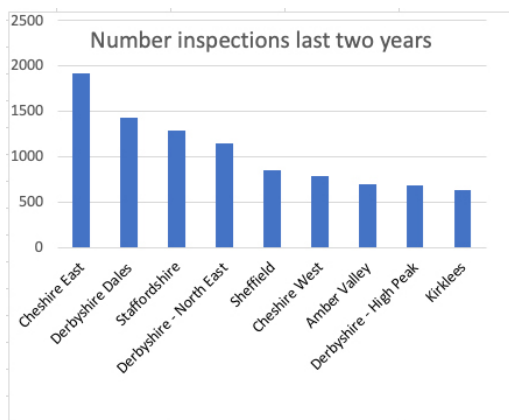
During the year six inspectors have resigned, two have sadly died (Adam Snape and Peter Davies) and eight have been retired because they have become inactive. This means that as at the end of February 2023 we had 188 volunteers who are listed as inspectors or area officers and one who is an agent (Shirley Northcott). However, some of those listed may not be active so we estimate that approximately 165 volunteers constitute PNFS's 'inspectorate'.

The good news is that we have ten with 100% coverage: Derbyshire North East; Chesterfield; High Peak; Trafford, Stockport, Oldham and Tameside in Greater Manchester; Ribble Valley and Rossendale in Lancashire; and Warrington. We have eleven areas with no footpath inspector - four on Merseyside (Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton), three in Lancashire (Blackpool, Preston, Fylde), Bolsover, Salford, Doncaster, and Stoke-on-Trent.

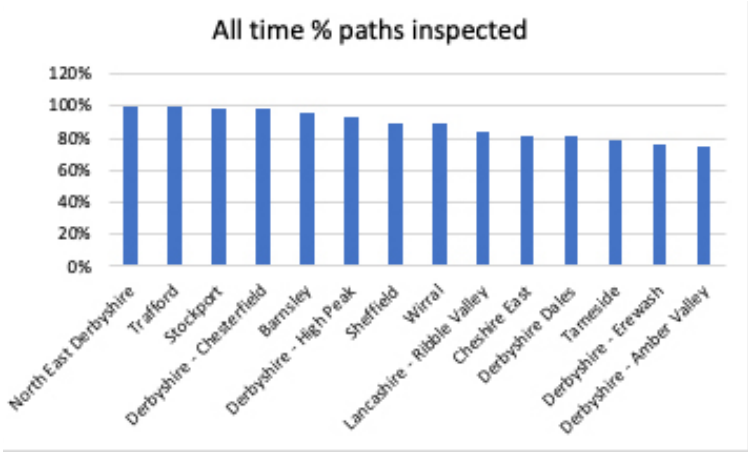
It is also worth noting that we have 94% coverage of parishes in Erewash (Derbyshire); 80% in Cheshire East; 78% in Derbyshire Dales (the parishes without inspectors are outside the National Park); 75% in Wigan and Bolton; 71% in Sheffield.

Inspections over the last two years *David Gosling and Linda Smith*

A staggering 15,686 inspections have been recorded in the last 24 months. The total number of inspections, including those not recorded on the FID, will be even higher. The chart below shows where we have had the highest level of inspections.



The number of rights of way in a highway authority varies very considerably. For example, Staffordshire has over 4,000 kms of rights of way, whereas Liverpool has only 17kms. It is useful therefore to look at the % of paths inspected as an indicator of PNFS activity. In Staffordshire we have inspected nearly a third of all PROWs (29%), whereas in Cheshire East with 1,956kms of paths, we have inspected 82% of them. There are fourteen HAs where we have inspected over 70% of the rights of way – see the chart below.



When we look at the number of faults outstanding, the numbers reflect the volume of inspections as well as the extent of faulty rights of way. For example, Staffordshire (where we inspect only 23% of parishes) has 671 outstanding ‘ordinary’ faults and 76 serious faults, and Derbyshire Dales has 540 ordinary faults and 57 serious faults from 78% of parishes.

The HAs with the highest number of serious (D) faults are as follows:

Area	% of parishes with an inspector	No of inspections in last 24 months	All time % paths inspected	Class B faults 24 months	Class D faults 24 months	Outstanding B faults	Outstanding D faults
Leeds	61%	380	52%	153	13	300	26
Tameside	100%	420	79%	202	42	300	32
Amber Valley (DE)	83%	693	75%	260	18	401	32
High Peak (DE)	100%	684	93%	190	29	387	33
Rossendale (LA)	100%	411	24%	74	52	61	52
Cheshire East	80%	1918	82%	335	77	351	53
Oldham	100%	174	39%	80	44	87	56
Derbyshire Dales (DE)	78%	1437	81%	407	34	540	57
Staffordshire	23%	1293	29%	372	39	671	76
Kirklees	55%	636	46%	344	96	367	86

The relationship that the Society has with local highway authorities varies enormously across our region. We have a very positive relationship with Cheshire East and Cheshire West, Barnsley and Bradford. In most other authorities, including Derbyshire, it is a mixed picture. In the case of Lancashire we have received some resistance to inspection reports from PNFS volunteers. This remains an ongoing issue.

Working with Manchester University students *Linda Smith*

We have been working with a small number of students from Manchester as part of the university's Stellify Award and Leadership Programme. This is not something that we have actively encouraged this academic year, but our details remain on the university's volunteer hub and we have had a slow trickle of enquiries to assist with path checks in areas where we have little information. Small groups have been checking paths in the Salford parish of Swinton and Pendlebury and the Rochdale parish of Middleton, and we are currently signing up students for the Salford parishes of Worsley and Eccles. The list of volunteers includes home students as well as some from overseas and they seem to be enjoying their work with us.

We provide students with Ordnance Survey maps, briefing notes and checklists and they attend a 'training' session via a Zoom call. Linda Smith acts as their mentor throughout their volunteering work. Students report their findings to Linda via a spreadsheet and the information is transferred to the FID.

PNFS faults reports *John Fisher, Assessor*

We provide a service to members and to the public whereby footpath faults can be reported.

326 faults were reported, a very similar total to last year. Taking into account multiple reports, 177 people used the system. 17 of these were PNFS inspectors away from their own parishes, the rest being path checkers, PNFS members or members of the public. About half of users reported direct from the field using the Path Checkers App for mobile phones; the remaining half via the website. Unsurprisingly, August was the peak month for reports (46) and February the lowest (14).

Each report was forwarded to the inspector for the relevant parish. 85% of these were acknowledged - again the same response rate as last year. Thanks are due to our inspectors for this extra work, particularly those in the more popular areas.

The most common subjects were stiles (88), obstructions (68), signposting (34), overgrowth (24) and bridges (21). Abuse was reported on only 6 occasions.

As last year the areas with most reports were in the west of the PNFS area, with Derbyshire High Peak and Cheshire East leading the way. Looking more closely at reports from individual parishes, the four with the most correspondence were Saddleworth, Marple, Chapel-en-le-Frith and Rainow. All these are large parishes in popular walking areas on the western edges of the National Park.

Members reading this are encouraged to use the system by whatever means they prefer, and to comment on its effectiveness.

**Fed-up with finding paths
obstructed or overgrown?**

**Become a
footpath inspector
for PNFS!**

Monitor rights of way on behalf of the Society

- in an area you have agreed to inspect
- at your own pace
- in your own time
- find the paths on our unique database
- record your inspections
- report problems

*Have the satisfaction of supporting the work of the Society
and protecting our right to walk public footpaths.*

If you are interested contact Footpath Inspection Coordinator, David Gosling
07841647275 or by email inspection@pnfs.org.uk

Lost Ways

Ken Brockway

The following is a list of Definitive Map Modification Orders applications submitted to Derbyshire in 2022. The last two lines are an update on earlier applications showing DCC progress in 2022. All other PNFS submitted by me appear to be awaiting progress.

Parish Location	Km	Claim	Post	DCC Ref	Legal
Grassmoor H&W FP8	0.175	FP	1.3.22	4663	102964
Bonsall, Horse FP17	0.061	FP	4.3.22	4665	102979
Bonsall, The Nook FP24	0.026	FP	4.3.22	4664	102978
Woodville FP4 Vicarage Rd	0.139	FP	11.4.22	4674	103370
Grindleford FP22 Tedgness	0.660	FP	10.5.22	4681	103600
Woodville FP8 New Road	0.144	FP	13.6.22	4698	103774
Woodville FP9 South St	0.380	FP	13.6.22	4699	
Matlock, Riber FP44	0.150	FP	25.10.22	4718	104496
Ballidon, Moor	1.500	FP	7.11.22	4721	104551
Wormhill, Peak Dale FP37	0.097	FP	12.12.22	4728	
Draycott FP2	0.06	FP	25.10.18	4267	75210 <i>Order confirmed</i> 23.3.22
Horsley	0.055	FP	17.12.18	4299	75824 <i>Order made</i> 4.5.22

Courts and Inquiries

Derbyshire *Rhoda Barnett, Courts and Inquiries Officer*

The appointment of a new rights of way team leader for the county council was made permanent during 2022. Some progress was made towards resolving long-outstanding issues, but many of these have still not been resolved. Staff resources and budgets at the council were depleted, but it seems that priority continued to be given to making diversion orders in landowners' interests, rather than those which would solve the problems experienced by walkers. This is shown by the fact that I responded to consultations about 12 proposed diversions made by the county and district/borough councils, none of which would lead to significant public benefit.

I continued to warn the county council that legal notices would be served on it to seek the repair of specific "out of repair" paths and the removal of obstructions on paths, and a lack of subsequent action did result in several notices being served. In most cases this led to action being taken by the council, but in one case lack of action resulted in me applying to the magistrates' court and the setting of a date for a hearing. At nearly the last minute the council enforced the removal of the obstruction, so I cancelled the hearing.

The number of modification orders made by the county council to correct the definitive map and statement (13) doubled this year compared to last. Many of these orders were made as a result of applications by PNFS as part of the Lost Ways project, based on detailed research of historic documents by PNFS members. I prepared an assessment of relevant evidence for a public inquiry into a modification order to which I objected on behalf of PNFS, but the inquiry was abandoned by the inspector after only 30 minutes because of an error in the order. Hopefully the county council will re-make the order soon.

I responded to 178 consultations from the borough and district councils about planning applications for proposed development on sites crossed by public rights of way, and I was able to ensure that many potential adverse effects were avoided.

I continued to give our inspectors and officers advice. I worked with the Peak District Green Lanes Alliance to try to ensure that the enjoyment of walkers' use of rights of way was not affected by vehicular use, and with the Peak Park rights of way officer to assess diversion proposals. I was also involved with training the Society's inspectors, assessing proposals for the expenditure of the Society's funds on improvements to public paths, and the continued revision of the Society's policies for many facets of its work.

Manchester, Salford and Trafford *Martin Hampar, Area Officer and Courts and Inquiries Officer*

Progress on a number of matters has been slow during the past year, largely as a reflection of the relevant highway authorities' lack of adequate resources to deal with the various matters expeditiously. As a result, few issues have been resolved during the year.

As in previous years, my work on behalf of the Society during the year has been divided between attention to issues in my home borough of Trafford, Greater Manchester and a number of more general activities, mainly in Manchester and Salford, and also in other parts of Greater Manchester and Lancashire.

I am continuing to collaborate with Ramblers groups in several areas on matters of common interest and concern.

During the year I have completed the submission of five applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders in Trafford and Manchester, and have been advising on two further applications.

I have responded to 42 consultations on orders proposing changes to the rights of way network in several Greater Manchester districts and on specific planning applications that may affect public rights of way in Trafford, Manchester and Salford.

I have continued to monitor the plans for HS2 for the possible effects on public rights of way and other public access in Greater Manchester.

Tameside *Udo Pope, Courts and Inquiries Officer*

During the last year my main focus has continued to be pressing Tameside Council to procure the removal of unlawful obstructions affecting various public rights of way within Tameside Council's area and/or to clear overgrown vegetation that otherwise prevents the use of those public rights of way. Where necessary, this has involved serving appropriate statutory notices on Tameside Council.

In particular I have continued to press Tameside Council to clear remaining overgrown vegetation on ten public footpaths within the parish of Mossley that were the subject of a formal letter in December 2020 threatening enforcement action. As noted in last year's Annual Report, during 2021 I issued statutory notices under section 56 and (where appropriate) under section 103A of the Highways Act 1980 in respect of three of those paths, despite which only a minority of the necessary vegetation clearance had been carried out at this time last year. Since then I have continued to chase progress on the outstanding works, including by issuing a further section 56 notice in respect of one of the overgrown paths. Fortunately, although progress has been slow and other

problems remain on some of the paths, the position is now that all ten of the relevant public footpaths have finally been cleared of overgrown vegetation.

Similarly, I have continued to press Tameside Council to procure the removal of unlawful obstructions on five public footpaths within its area that were the subject of a formal letter in October 2021 threatening enforcement action. As a result of the Council's slow progress on procuring such removal, this has included issuing statutory notices under section 103A in respect of obstructions on two of the five paths. At the date of this report I am pleased to say that the relevant obstructions have been removed on four of the five public footpaths. The exception is FP106 in the parish of Mossley (which, although shown on Ordnance Survey maps, has clearly not been used for many years as a result of the fencing currently preventing access to the path). During a site visit by Tameside Council, a potentially dangerous hidden gully was identified as crossing that footpath. However, I am hopeful that in the coming year a footbridge will be installed to enable the gully to be crossed, thereby reopening this path to walkers.

A proper job!



Photo by David Morton showing S613 erected by John Hodgson, our signpost contractor, and member, Ross Myddelton.

Consultations and Orders

Brian Hamilton, Assessor

At the AGM this year, the consultation and orders manager Terry Norris resigned. His knowledge and expertise were a great loss to our section. This left myself and John Grimsey as the only assessors and in June, John also felt he was unable to continue. He had been in the assessor's role since 2004, and so had given 18 years of good service to the Society. Meeting up with him at Taylor House every Monday morning was always enjoyable, on a work and social level. This obviously left me as last one standing, and since the role can be done remotely at home I continued until, with the assistance of David Gosling, we recruited three new assessors. These are Alan Pickup, Peter Mitchell and Phil Rheinberg. After a few training sessions at Taylor House, the four of us continued to work from home, and this has been going quite smoothly.

I would like to thank the Society's inspectors for the good work and prompt reports they give us, and the Courts and Inquiries officers for their support.

We have been involved in 13 objections during the year. We have withdrawn our objections in four of these cases; the rest are ongoing.

The statistics for the year are listed below (previous year's figures in brackets):

Orders	178 (193)
Consultations	267 (327)
Confirmed orders	65 (56)
Public space protection orders	1 (2)
Objections	13 (12)

Bridges and Improvements

Nigel Howe, Bridges and Improvements Officer

There has been very little progress this year in the funding and replacement of bridges across our area, the Bridge at Red Ratcher on the Pennine Way was finally completed, good weather was required along with the availability of a helicopter to fly the parts of the bridge in, also a number of small bridge projects throughout East Cheshire have been completed. Over the past, 12 months there have very few new bridge projects carried out, current ongoing Bridge projects include Longnor, Marks Bottom at Holmfirth and more small bridge improvements for Cheshire East and if anyone is aware of any bridges that requires funding please get in touch.



Red Ratcher Bridge

However, on a more positive note this year we completed our largest footpath improvement scheme to date at Moss Valley working with the Don Catchment River Trust although taking longer than envisaged due to the outbreak of Covid it has been a very successful project.

We have also completed two interesting improvements working with Community groups one at Sandbach the Sandbach Woodland & Wildlife Group and one at Audlem the Turnpike Group, on both these projects PNFS funded the materials and all the hard work was carried out by volunteers investing in their community.



Moss Valley



Sandbach FP23



Audlem FP26

We also completed a canal side improvement at Tydlesley, current improvement projects include Grindelton, 3 projects at Huddersfield and a new flight of steps Hazel Grove/Bramhall.

Signposts and Bridge Officers

PNFS signposts *David Morton, Signpost Officer*

If 2020 was the year of lockdowns due to Covid, 2022 was a year of extreme weather events with heatwaves, wildfires, famines, storms and floods affecting the whole world, including Britain and our signpost work, eg S359 once again narrowly escaped the Marsden Moor fires.

We erected 13 new signs; all with numbers in the 600s. I remember when my signposting career began fifteen years ago in 2007 with signpost 324 at Parwich. At that time, out of 324 signs erected since 1905, about 260 had survived the impact of vehicle collisions, two World Wars, removal by other organisations, the odd theft and careless hedge trimming. By the end of 2022 we had more than doubled the 260 to 567, thanks latterly to the efforts of a growing team and our stalwart contractor John Hodgson, who this year moved house in the process. Our costs rose dramatically in 2022 and our required donation has risen from £375 to £500.

New signs in 2022

S623 at GR: SJ 93333 71975, Pyegreave Farm, Langley, on Sutton FP5, donated by Stephen Mott in memory of his father Alan Mott

S625 at GR: SK 37587 62796, Stretton Hall Farm, Clay Cross FP 9, added to the three erected there in late 2021 in a parish new to PNFS

S628 at GR: SK 03060 56860, Dunlea Farm, Onecote, on FPs 23 and 24, and BW19 on a complex junction of paths by the River Hamps

S630 at GR: SK 36237 64466, Alton, Ashover FPs 23 and 24, donated by Ray Russell in memory of his wife Astrid and himself. This became the 16th PNFS signpost in Ashover Civil Parish.

S631 at GR: SD 66230 14669, NE of Winter Hill mast, on Turton 50 + Lancs 9-20/84 to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the 1896 Winter Hill mass trespass, with the help of Tony Greenwood

S632 at GR: SK 47815 64042, E of Hardwick Hall on Ault Hucknall FPs 40 and 27 to celebrate the centenary of the Nottingham HF Rambling Club

S633 at GR: SK 41807 65852, on the Five Pits Trail (a disused railway line) on N. Wingfield FPs 7 and 40

S634 at GR: SK 41155 66433, on N.Wingfield FPs 1 and 40

S635 at GR: SK 00458 86021, on Sett Valley Way, Salem Bridge, New Mills, donated by John Biggins

S636 at GR: SD 82419 51650, on Loftrans Farm on Paythorne FPs 18 and 23 to celebrate Neville Brown's 86th birthday

S637 at GR: SK 1412 4903, near Blore, on Okeover FP6 and the Limestone Way, donated by the Staffs. LDWA

S638 at GR: SD 71196 45698, at Bashall Eaves, NW of Clitheroe on BW1 and FP2

S639 at GR: SJ 62676 84617, on Lumb Brook valley, Appleton, in memory of PNFS member David Heath

Maintenance

Some of our 567 signposts required maintenance. Even keeping an eye on that number is a challenge, but with a growing signpost team and a number of very co-operative footpath inspectors in far-off places, we've managed it. The main jobs are cleaning them, replacing or repairing rotten posts and repainting the plates. Over the year 190 signs were variously inspected, cleaned and repainted. 14 signs rotted and fell down and were reposted and in some cases, shot-blasted and repainted. A mixture of concrete and wooden stumps were used to economise on the use of new oak posts, which became hard to source due to Brexit and its effects on the import of French oak at the Channel ports. We turned to tanalised softwood posts instead. As far as I can remember, only one signpost - 298 at Hartington YHA - was stolen. 635 on the Sett Valley Trail disappeared soon after its erection, but was quickly found and reinstated by the two female Hayfield rangers. They, the PDNP rangers and our signpost team deserve the Society's wholehearted thanks.



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Membership

Mel Bale, Membership Secretary

It is a little disappointing to report that for the first time during my time as membership secretary our current 'paid up' membership number is lower than for the previous year. We shouldn't forget that membership increased significantly during the 'pandemic' years and, despite this year's fall, the overall total is still higher than in the two years prior to Covid. I have noticed that the number of renewal forms that I have been receiving is lower than in recent years. Some take weeks to be returned, and in a few cases they arrive only after several reminders have been sent. We all know that the country is going through difficult times financially, so perhaps we shouldn't be surprised if some people have chosen not to renew.

Over the last 12 months I have written a series of articles titled Membership Matters for our Signpost magazine. These articles have analysed our membership numbers in several different ways. The articles looked at individual and group membership as well as footpath inspector numbers. The numbers confirm that none of these groupings is evenly distributed across the entire region that PNFS covers. Rather than seeing this a problem though, we should see it as an opportunity to increase our membership numbers elsewhere. I find it difficult to believe that people from one area are less interested in the work of the Society than those from another area. Maybe they just don't know about us! We need to raise our profile in areas where our numbers are lower, and hopefully we will see an increase in our overall membership as a result.

Sadly, a number of our affiliated groups have either ceased to exist or failed to renew over the last 12 months. However, 8 new groups did affiliate during the same period. We currently have a record number of footpath inspectors, and many cover more than a single parish. I would encourage all of them to contact the parish councils that they cover and tell them of the work of the Society and that we may be able to help them financially to improve the public rights of way (PRoW) within the area that they are responsible for. I know from the experience of Shirley Addy and others that this approach does work.

Please don't forget that your subscriptions are vital to the work of the Society in protecting, promoting and improving the PRoW network. If you don't already Gift Aid your subscription and are a UK tax payer, please just sign the appropriate section on your next renewal form. By doing so you effectively increase the value of your subscription by 25%. Gift Aid can be claimed retrospectively for 4 years so, if you can Gift Aid, please consider doing so.

As always membership renewal reminder letters are sent out with every issue of Signpost and emailed to those members who receive it electronically. I would encourage everyone to renew as soon as possible and also consider paying their subscription by direct debit if they do not already do so. Not only does this reduce the need for reminders but it also allows more time to be spent on other work for the Society. Don't forget that you can renew online via our website.

I would like to thank my fellow trustees for all their support and encouragement throughout the year, and in particular Paul Easthope, our treasurer, who yet again has been a great help when dealing with the financial aspects of membership.

Finally, please do contact me at membership@pnfs.org.uk if you have any questions or ideas about membership.

Membership Details					
Members	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Annual	1079	1091	1245	1289	1184
Ten Year	39	18	5	2	2
Five Year	2	2	0	0	0
Hon Life	32	35	34	35	33
Total	1152	1146	1284	1326	1219
Affiliates	85	87	88	79	82

Note: The 2022 figures are for 'paid up' members with 3 months of the membership year still to run. There are 95 individual and household members and 12 Affiliates who haven't yet renewed in 2022/23. All have recently been sent renewal reminder letters or emails. This should result in more renewals.

Financial Review

Paul Easthope, Treasurer

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 the trustees’ decisions made in 2006.

Income

* Receipts were down appreciably to £40,501. This was mainly due to legacies being down by £26,795 to £500.

* Members’ subscriptions were similar to last year at £15,358. Affiliations were up slightly to £1,970’

* General donations were up slightly by £171 to £7,395.

* Gift aid was slightly higher, up to £5,516.

* Signpost/footbridge donations were down by £1,686 to £5,547.

* Dividends and interest were down appreciably by £6,624 to £4,060. This was due to moving our investments from Charles Stanley to Redmayne Bentley. The trustees had been advised that the Charles Stanley investments contained some high-risk bonds. They decided that the lower dividends from lower-risk investments spread over twenty-five holdings with Redmayne Bentley was a safer portfolio than ten higher-risk holdings with Charles Stanley.

Taking out legacy income, overall income was lower by £7,591 at £40,001.

Expenditure

Overall expenditure was appreciably higher by £39,831 to £87,612. This was nearly all due to an increase in footbridge expenditure and an appreciable increase in footpath improvements expenditure. Taylor House costs were much lower.

* Taylor House costs were down £6,357 to £3,966.

* Signpost costs were down by £2,304 to £6,213.

* Footbridge costs were up by £2,580 to £2,586.

* Footpath improvements costs were up £37,912 to £42,909.

* Travel costs increased by £1,047 to £5,768, due to increasing the mileage allowance from 30p per mile to 45p per mile for volunteers’ expenses during the year.

* Printing costs were up £482 at £6,396, due to increasing the number of pages in the magazine. It now costs £1.80 to print and post a magazine, so please consider taking them online.

* Postage/phone/stationery costs were £1,373 lower due to falls in postage costs of £551, phone by £410, stationery by £412.

* Computer costs were down by £2,395 to £2,778.

- * This year we held physical annual and half-year meetings, after not incurring these costs last year due to Covid restrictions and having the meetings online. Costs this year were £1,421.
 - * Insurance was slightly higher at £1,268.
 - * Subscriptions/donations/training costs were higher at £1,418, due to making a donation of £1,000 to help fund an appeal to stop the sale of the Greenfield recreation ground in Shropshire for housing.
 - * Footpath improvements. Up an appreciable amount to £42,909.
 - * Seven main schemes financed: Horwich FP68, Barrow bridge BOL107, Ramsgreave FP4, Moss Valley (subtotal 13.8k); two gates at Shelvington Wigan, Sandbach 23, Wheelock and Tydersley 247; total £32,485; plus 27 gates part funded and sleeper bridges for Cheshire East £10,424.
 - * Legal/professional/secretarial costs up by £7,119 to £8,902 due to website design costs: £6,700 to date.
 - * Sundries increased by £611 due to the purchase of new pin and cloth badges.
- The net deficit was £47,111 for the year.

Assets

The balance sheet is much lower, due mainly to the large increase in footpath improvements at £454,471.

Our investments are valued at £150,886, plus £23,432 held in cash with Redmayne Bentley, our investment broker.

Current assets were down £46,385 to £ to £242,931.

Direct debits subscriptions: CAF (Charity Aid Foundation Bank) collect our direct debits. Please note you no longer see on your statements and online bank details any mention of PNFS. Instead you see "Charity Donation" followed by a reference number beginning with either FRS (six numbers), 10, 11 or 12 (seven numbers) Collection dates are 1st and 15th of the month.

Please think about changing to paying your subscriptions and donations by direct debit and, if you are a tax payer, signing up for Gift Aid. Forms available at <http://www.peakandnorthern.org.uk>

Direct debits account for two-thirds of our individual/household membership subscription income: £10,413 this year. Our PayPal account has also been successful, with £2,340 of subscription/donations payments.

Annual Accounts



**Peak & Northern
Footpaths Society**

No 212219

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Subscriptions	15,358		15,358	15,428
Affiliations	1,970		1,970	1,883
Legacies, bequests	500		500	27,295
Donations general	7,395		7,395	7,224
Donations signposts & footbridges		5,547	5,547	7,233
Gift Aid tax	5,516		5,516	5,018
Interest/Dividends	4,060		4,060	10,684
Miscellaneous	155		155	112
Sub total (Gross income for AF)	34,954	5,547	40,501	74,887
A2 Asset and investment sales				
Nationwide BS stock redemption			0	14,000
Charles Stanley Investments sold	157,642		157,642	0
Sub total	157,642	0	157,642	14,000
Total receipts	192,596	5,547	198,143	88,887
A3 Payments				
Taylor House running costs	3,966		3,966	10,323
Signpost & Footbridges	3,252	5,547	8,799	8,524
Travel & Subsistence	5,768		5,768	4,721
Printing, Copying, newsletter	6,396		6,396	5,914
Postage Telephone Stationery	3,326		3,326	4,699
Computer, Software & maintenance	2,778		2,778	5,173
Functions / Fundraising costs	1,421		1,421	0
Insurance	1,268		1,268	1,143
Subscriptions, Donations, Training	1,418		1,418	455
Footpath Improvements projects	42,909		42,909	4,997
Legal Professional & Secretarial	8,902		8,902	1,783
Badge purchases, bank charges & Sundries	661		661	50
Sub total	82,065	5,547	87,612	47,782
P & L SURPLUS			-47,111	27,095
A4 Asset and investment purchases				
Redmayne Bentley Investments bought	156,917		156,917	0
			0	0
Sub total	156,917	0	156,917	0
Total payments	238,982	5,547	244,529	47,782
Net of receipts/(payments)	-46,386	0	-46,386	41,095
A5 Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0
A6 Cash funds last year end	228,307	61,010	289,317	248,222
Cash funds this year end	181,921	61,010	242,931	289,317

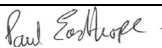
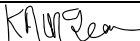
Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Savings accounts	162,210	61,010
	Current accounts & petty cash	19,711	0
	Total cash funds	181,921	61,010
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK

	Details	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	Redmayne Bentley Investments		150,886
	TOTAL	0	150,886

	Details	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Taylor House building	60,153	
	Computer Equipment	13,458	
	Furniture fittings & other	4,351	
	P A sound system	1,509	

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

Signature	Print name	Date of approval
	P Easthope	23/1/2023
	K McLean	23/1/2023

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

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Peak and Northern Footpaths Society (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

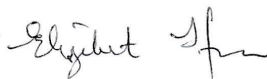
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Elizabeth Hudson ACA
16 Lindridge Lane, Desford LE9 9GN
10th March 2023

Honorary Members

The President and Vice Presidents are elected in recognition of outstanding services to the Society and they enjoy all the benefits of honorary membership.

Members of twenty or more years standing who are aged at least 65 are entitled, upon application, to honorary Membership

President

David Bratt
(Since AGM)

Vice Presidents

Kate Ashbrook
Mr and Mrs A F Bennet
Norman Edwards
Mrs Gwynneth Littleton
Ian McMillan

Other Honorary Members

Hilda Bowler	Mr A Howcroft
Eva Burling	Judith Hunt
Barrie Clark	Mr and Mrs J C Law
Wade Cooper	Pat Money Penny
Michael Davies	Mr T L Norris
Mrs M Frankland	Will and Marianne Peters
Brian Gerrard	Harry Scott
Ian Gibbon	Mr C H Shaw
John and Audrey Grimsey	David Sissons
Margaret Haigh	Hilary Summerscales
John Harker	Mrs B Taylor
Philip and Anne Harris	Mary Whitehead
Mrs J Hibbert	Peter Williams
Mr and Mrs D Hilliker	Ted Wolfe
David Hilton	Mr S Wraith
David Hinde	Keith Wykes
Alan Hooley	

Affiliated Groups

Abbotsfield Fellwalkers of Flixton
Alderley Edge, Wilmslow & District FP Society
Altrincham Rambling Club
Anchor Ramblers
Anderton Parish Council
Ashover Footpath and Bridleway Committee
Ashton-u-Lyne & District Walking Club
Billington and Langho Parish Council
Blackburn Rambling Association
Blackrod Town Council
Bolton CHA Rambling Club
Bolton Ramblers Group
Buxton Rambling Club
CHA Bradford Rambling and Social Club
CHA Manchester Rambling Club
CHA Mansfield
CHA Sheffield Rambling Club and Social Club
Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council
Chapel-en-le-Frith Rambling Club
Cheshire Tally Ho Hare & Hounds Club
Clayton le Dale Parish Council
Crescent Ramblers Northwich
CROWS
Dark Peak Bridleways Association
Derby Nomad Ramblers
Derbyshire Pennine Club
Disley Footpaths Society
Dore Village Society
Eccles Rambling & Social Club
Grindleton Parish Council
Halifax Rambling and Social Club
Hanliensian Rambling Club
Hayfield Parish Council
Helsby Parish Council
HF Bury Group
HF Nottingham Group
HF Warrington Rambling Club
Hunshelf Parish Council
Macclesfield Countryside and Heritage Club
Macclesfield Rambling Club
Manchester and Salford Ramblers Group
Manchester Associates Rambling Club
Manchester Rambling Club
Marple District Rambling Club
Melbourne Footpaths Group
Merseyside & West Cheshire Area RA
Mid Cheshire Footpath Society

Mossley Town Council
North Turton Parish Council
Northenden Walkers
Oldham Wednesday Walkers
Osbaldeston Parish Council
Pennine Wayfarers Rambling Club
Pott Shrigley Parish Council
Poynton Rambling Club
RA Congleton Group
RA Doncaster Group
RA East Cheshire
RA Greater Manchester & High Peak Area
RA North & Mid Cheshire Area
RA Nottinghamshire Area
RA Oldham Group
RA Preston Group
RA Sheffield Group
RA South Yorks & NE Derbyshire Area
RA Stockport Group
RA Trafford Group
Red Rope (Manchester)
Rimington and Middop Parish Council
Rochdale CHA Rambling Club
Rock and Heather Club
Rossendale Ramblers
Saddleworth Pedestrians
Saddleworth Runners
Sale Walking and Activity Group
Salesbury Parish Council
Sandbach Footpath Group
Sandbach Woodland and Wildlife Group
Sheffield Co-operative Ramblers
Shirland & Higham Parish Council
Stockport Field Club
Stockport Rambling & Social Club
Stockport Walkers
Stockport Walking and Outdoor Group
Sutton-in-Ashfield and District Rambling Club
Tameside Ramblers
The Irregulars
The Rucksack Club
The Strollers
Thornley with Wheatley Parish Council
Trafford Walkers
U3A Sale Walking Group
Warrington Field Club
Whaley Bridge Town Council
Whalley Parish Council
Wirral Footpaths & Open Spaces Preservation Society

Area Officers and Inspectors

Barnsley

Area Officer

Chris Davison

Inspectors

Mel Bale

Chris Davison

Dianne Fortescue

Simon Hulme

David Oldfield

Barry Tylee

Blackburn with

Darwen

Inspectors

Graham Fullarton

Rob Johnson

Roger Marks

Danni Whitehead

Bolton

Inspectors

Jim Foster

Brian Gerrard

Bradford

Inspectors

Lindsay Atkinson

Gill Darnbrook

David Pollard

Jonathan Robbins

Neil Walsh

Bury

Inspectors

Vince Anderson

Andy McMullan

David Pollard

Calderdale

Inspectors

Henry Carter

Jenny Sibbons

Cheshire East

Area Officer

Jenny Allen

Inspectors

Will Ablett

Darren Adams

Jenny Allen

John Alexander

Dominique Berk

Quentin Blagg

David Brown

Martin Brown

Tony Clare

Sheila Dillon

Steve & Chris Elliott

Clive Evans

Adrian Farrow

John Fisher

Terry Fones

Phil Gadsby

David Gartside

John Goodman

Brian Hamilton

Fleur Howells

Mark Kambites

Patrick Knowles

Tony Littler

Clare Maxwell

Gavin Miller

Maria Novelty

David Powell

Duncan Smith

Linda Smith

David Taylor

Pete Varetto

Richard Vickery

Cheshire West

Area Officer

Jenny Allen

Inspectors

Jenny Allen

Pete & Sue Annice

William Burdett

Thomas Degg

Heather Fielding

Chris Fortune

Andy Garland

John Gascoyne

David Gauterin

Stephen Grimes

Jan Howe

John Kummer

Joe Park

Niall Phillips

Ewan Price

Mike Russell

Linda Smith

Keith Stoops

Andy Thorne

John White

Andy Williams

James Wynn-Edwards

Derby City

Area Officer

Rhoda Barnett

Inspectors

Kathy McLean

Barry Thomas

Derbyshire - Amber

Valley

Area Officer

Rhoda Barnett

Inspectors

David Armin

Jim Bosworth

Ken Brockway

John Harker

Dudley Ibbett

David Moreton

Mike Nelms

Derbyshire - Bolsover

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John Harker

Derbyshire - Chesterfield

Area Officer

John Harker

Inspectors

Bill Parke

Derbyshire - Dales

Area Officer

Rhoda Barnett

Inspectors

Derek Bodey

Bill Buckley

Marie Campbell

John Collins

Jim Cowley

John Goodman

Ann Haden

John Harker

Jim Howell

Merrick Iszatt

Stewart Keech

Kate Langford

Kathy McLean

Derek Northin

Bill Parke

Debby Pickvance

David Sissons

Simon Thompson

David Tibbit

Richard Whiteside

Derbyshire - Erewash

Area Officer

Martin Davis

Inspectors

Ken Brockway

Kathy McLean

Andy Smith

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Area Officer

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Derek Bodey

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Paul Easthope

Nigel Hackney

Tim Lewis

Steve Millward

Stuart Proud

Steve & Tracy Royle

Dave Russ

David Sissons

Duncan Smith

Ian Smith

Helen Steel

John White

Derbyshire - North East Lancashire - Pendle*Area Officer*

John Harker

Inspectors

Bill Parke

Inspectors

Mark Chung

Simon Worrall

Oldham*Inspectors*

Brian Lomas

Martin Riley

Ken Smith

Stockport*Area Officer*

David Gosling

Inspectors

David Gosling

Dave Russ

John Shuttleworth

Simon Temple

Alan Wynn

Derbyshire - South*Area Officer*

Rhoda Barnett

Inspectors

Martin Davis

John Eaton

John Holloway

Kathy McLean

Barry Thomas

Lancashire - Ribble Valley*Inspectors*

Shirley Addy

Rochdale*Inspectors*

Jane Hodgson

Ross Myddleton

Lancashire - Rossendale*Inspectors*

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Andy Devanney

Blaine Parkes

Sam Smith

Ron Suthers

Stephen Walker

Claire Whittaker

Rotherham*Area Officer*

Stephen Hird

Inspectors

David Oldfield

Doncaster*Area Officer*

John Harker

Tameside*Inspectors*

Paul Easthope

Udo Pope

Trafford*Area Officer*

Martin Hampar

Kirklees*Inspectors*

Jane Hodgson

Dan O'Hara

David Oldfield

Mark Wall

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Paul Cocker

Brent Whybro

Danny Withington

Sheffield*Area Officer*

John Harker

Inspectors

John Adler

John Collins

Kate Langford

David Oldfield

Bill Parke

Lancashire - West*Inspectors*

Nick Storer

St Helens*Inspectors*

Kevin Rigby

Lancashire - Burnley*Inspectors*

Shirley Addy

Rachel Meredith

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Brian Dearnaley

Paul Hargreaves

Andrew Paton

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Stephen Greenbank

Jon Henry

Bob Smith

Cheryl Speight

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Andrew Harter

Martin Wright

Staffordshire*Inspectors*

Martin Balderson

Kate & Paul Beresford

Tony Clare

Eric Davies

David Edge

John Fisher

David Gartside

Steve Gwenlan

Katie Landon

Tony Littler

Shaun Needs

Bill Parke

David Tibbit

Chad Wilkinson

Wakefield*Area Officer*

John Harker

Inspectors

Ken Coggin

Caroline Devenport

Stephen Hanslip

Tim Saunders

Stephen Hird

Warrington*Area Officer*

Jan Howe

Inspectors

Jenny Allen

Jan Howe

Nigel Howe

James McWhinney

Peter Varetto

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Shirley Addy

James Singleton

Manchester*Area Officer*

Martin Hampar

Wigan*Inspectors*

Peter Burns

Geoff Jones

Andrew Newsham

Nick Storer

Dave Taylor

Mark Thomas

Lancashire - Lancaster*Inspectors*

Phil Featherstone

Kathy McLean

Belinda Nixie

Andrew Paton

Hugh Stewart

Paul Tynan



Seen these? Use *Path Checker* app!



Did you know that PNFS has its own smartphone app called Path Checker? Path Checker is free and can be downloaded from both the App Store and Google Play.

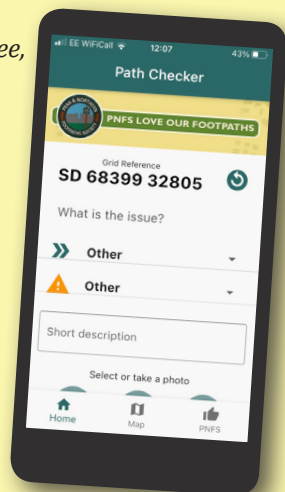


It has three features. By default it shows the user's grid reference and allows them to enter details of a fault have just encountered. An existing or new photograph can be selected and then all the details emailed to the society by pressing a submit button.

The other two features are available via the 'Map' and 'PNFS' icons at the bottom of the screen. The former shows the society's signposts and bridges via standard location icons. Selecting an icon shows a photograph of the signpost/bridge along with its details. 'PNFS' provides three links to the society's website, 'Join Us', 'Support Us' and 'About Us'.

Our new app simplifies the reporting of a fault. Why not download it now and try it out? Tell your friends and family about it as well.

*Mel Bale, Trustee,
Membership
Secretary and
Webmaster*



PNFS Walks

All members are welcome to join any of PNFS's walks. There are three walks per month, each one organised by a PNFS member. Details of each walk are in published in *Signpost*, *Waymark* or pnfs.org.uk.



Shorter walks

6-7 miles long on second Wednesday of each month.

At Hollins Cross, near Castleton

Longer walks

9-10 miles long on last

Wednesday of each month

At Lees Mill Lane, Slaithwaite



Weekend walks

8-12 miles long on first Saturday of each month.

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Invitation to Members

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 20 May 2023

at

Stockport Guildhall

169 Wellington Road South, Stockport, SK1 3UA

By road From Junction 1 of the M60, follow signs for the centre of Stockport until you reach the A6. Going south the Guildhall is 300 yards past the town hall opposite Stockport College. The free car park is accessed via Brentnall Street.

Rail Stockport railway station is ten minutes' walk away.

Bus The frequent 192 service and the 199 and 392 services call at the bus stop positioned directly outside the building.

10:30	Tea and coffee are available on arrival
11:00	AGM commences
12:30	Cold buffet lunch
13:30	Guest speaker: Diane Simcoe <i>The Ramblers: Regional Engagement Officer – North</i>
14:30	Open forum
15:30	Meeting closes

To reserve your place at the AGM please inform the secretary
no later than 12 May, stating if lunch is require.

Email mail@pnfs.org.uk ~ phone or text 07732 682026

(A donation is invited to help defray the catering costs
which are £10 per person)