

SIGNPOST

Newsletter of the Peak and Northern
Footpaths Society



Number 43

Summer 2013

Can you help and other news

Evidence Needed

Have you used Wardlow FP6? The path runs north along the bottom of the northern section of Cressbrook Dale in the Peak District, past Peter's Stone, to join the A623 at Wardlow Mires. At this junction, Derbyshire County Council has recently installed a new footbridge west of Brookside Farm and surfaced a path along the road verge so that walkers can safely walk to the junction with the B6465. Unfortunately the definitive map is not clear at this location, but a member of the Society believes that this is not the correct historic, legal route of the path, which should pass through the yard of Brookside Farm before it joins the road.

This member intends to apply to the County Council for it to make a modification order to recognise the path through Brookside Farm as the correct definitive route. The evidence which he needs to provide with this application will probably include historical documents, but will be mainly the evidence of use of the path by walkers. If you have used the route through Brookside Farm in the past, he would be very grateful if you could complete an evidence form, provided by the County Council, to describe the dates and frequency of your use and the route taken.

If you would be able to help with this, please contact Rhoda Barnett by email:

mail@peakandnorthern.org.uk
Or phone:
Taylor House on 0161 480 3565

Volunteer Needed

The society has a network of eight PCs with MS Windows and Office installed. We're looking for a volunteer with relevant skills and experience to plan and manage a programme of upgrades to the software, and hopefully to take an active role in the future maintenance and development of the system. Expenses will be reimbursed. Please contact John Broadbent by email: johnbroadbent@ntlworld.com
Or Phone:
Taylor House on 0161 480 3565

Sad News

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Jack Robinson former Inspector for Oldham on Sunday 05 May 2013 aged 90 years and David Williamson Captain RN (Retired) on 5th May 2013, aged 81 years. David was an active member of Peak and Northern for many years and was responsible for scanning our archive of old Annual Reports which can be found on our website. More recently his advice on drafting the Society's new Constitution was invaluable. His wise counsel will be sorely missed.

Dates for your diary.

Saturday 23 November, is the date for our Half Year Meeting, which will be held at the Britannia Hotel Offerton.

Saturday 12 April 2014 is the date for next year's AGM. Venue as above.

*Cover Picture: Mayor of Congleton, Sally-Ann Holland and Alan Soper
at the new stile at the northern end of Congleton 82*

Exciting Times for PNFS

April 27th 2013 was quite a day for PNFS. The EGM voted unanimously for the new Constitution thereby giving Trustees the authority as well as the responsibility for effectively managing the Society. In addition the Constitution is now based on the Charity Commission model which meets Charity Commission requirements much more closely than did the previous constitution.

The EGM was then followed by the AGM which again voted unanimously for your new Chairman, yours truly, and for the election of four additional Trustees. The complete Trustees Team is now in addition to myself: Rhoda Barnett, Bill Buckley, Paul Easthope, John Harker, David Morton, Terry Norris and Alistair Taylor.

Clarke Rogerson stood down as Chairman and was duly elected as President. Under the new Constitution the President is not a Trustee but is able to "stand aside" from the daily management of the Society, in a position to provide advice and guidance to the Trustees as needed. I have assured Clarke that I will need all the advice and guidance I can get !

At this point I would like to say a big thank you to Clarke for the enormous contribution he has made to PNFS as Chairman over the past five years. He has ensured that we are now on a much sounder financial footing than when he took over and as a consequence will be able to consider investment in additional resources to enable us to achieve greater growth and become more efficient.

Looking to the future , I firmly believe we need to increase our membership numbers steadily over the next few years, if we are to continue to be in a position to fulfil our role of protecting footpaths throughout our area. To this end, we are "recruiting" a Membership Development officer to take on this responsibility.

Good news has been plentiful over the past few weeks. April 26th the day before the AGM, a walk to celebrate the Society's major contribution to the opening of Congleton 82 ,the footpath over 'The Cloud' near Congleton, took place. Sixty people joined the walk including the Mayor of Congleton who gamely completed the walk including climbing over the new ladder stile in her extremely smart trouser suit, see front cover photo.

More good news from a lady in Derbyshire who is not (yet) a member of Peak and Northern but who has already raised in excess of £1200 for the Society. Fiona Corden ran the London Marathon in memory of her late father who was a very keen hill walker and who loved footpaths. Fiona wanted to donate her sponsorship monies to an organisation that had practical impact on the preservation of footpaths, and chose us. She believes that her father would be delighted at her choice. If you would like to make a donation to Fiona and her good cause, you can do so either direct to Taylor House or via our website. (*click on News, Update on Fiona Corden's Run and follow the 'Just Giving' link*)

Continued

The official opening of the new bridge near the Jumbles Reservoir took place May 7th. This bridge has been financed by P&N and has enabled Bolton MBC to open up the footpath to the West Pennine Moors. Full details can be found on our website ([click on News, New Footbridges Improve Access to West Pennine Moors](#))



*Terry Norris , John Broadbent , Andrew Smith (Bolton MBC RoW Officer),
Neil Collie , Jim Foster on the new bridge near Jumbles reservoir*

Finally, in our constant quest for new members we will be present with our “Marquee Stand” at the following events this year:-

June 23rd Derbyshire County Show
June 30th Marple Locks Festival
July 27th Leek and District Show
July 31st Nantwich Show
Aug.24th Poynton Show
Sept.14th Hodder Valley Show

***I firmly believe we need
to increase our
membership numbers***

Come and visit us, bring a friend, they are bound to join when they see what a good job we do !!

In addition we still need some volunteers to help man the stalls and recruit new members, so if you would like to help, please email me at johnbroadbent@ntlworld.com.

All in all, exciting times and I am certain many more to come.

John Broadbent

Bridestones Celebration

There was much to celebrate and sixty people joined David Bratt as he led the walk up to The Cloud which enjoys spectacular views over Cheshire. For many years it has not been possible to walk directly to the Bridestones, a protected ancient monument, south of the Cloud. But now thanks to a lot of hard work by the late Adrian Littleton, whose family joined us on the day, Alan Soper and the rest of the PNFS team, plus the small matter of £15,000 that the society spent on legal fees, all walkers are now able to enjoy the route using Congleton 82.

As you will see from the photos the sun was out to help us celebrate this huge success which the society is rightly proud of. June Mabon did a sterling job in ensuring the press were in attendance and we received good publicity in the Congleton Chronicle and Roly Smith covered the story in the Manchester Evening News.

We also had the pleasure of walking the newly diverted Rushton Spencer 52 which now avoids what John Read described as *a weird and questionably wonderful tunnel*. The new route takes a line across fields and through a small wooded area en route to the Bridestones.



Above left: Spectacular views from The Cloud.

Above: the weird and questionably wonderful tunnel on the old route.

Left: the more pleasant diverted route.

Kimberworth FP17



Kimberworth 17 was a non-definitive path until 2011, despite the fact that local people had used it for many decades for leisure and getting to work in the Don Valley which the path overlooks. The path is part of 3 different recreational walks:

Sheffield Way (pioneered in 1986 by Councillor Peter Price),

Rotherham Ring Route (pioneered by Rotherham R.A.)

Rowbotham's Round Rotherham Run (pioneered by the Rotherham Harriers & Athletics Club).

The landowner challenged use, by erecting signs, several years ago. I and my opposite number in Rotherham Ramblers pressed for a Definitive Map Modification Order to add it to the Definitive Map & Statement. The order was published in 2010 and led to a public inquiry (PI) in March 2011 due to the landowner's objection. I gave evidence at the PI as did another PNFS member. The inspector confirmed the Order but the path had become unusable due to under/overgrowth. A work day was organised recently which I participated in, we cleared the path and built steps (see below for before during and after photos) under the guidance of staff from Groundwork Dearne Valley. Rotherham MBC also erected new signposts at either end.

The picture above shows Sheffield City Councillor Peter Price and myself with a copy of his booklet 'The Sheffield Way'. It's a 45 mile route around Sheffield which uses the footpath.

John Harker



Other Footpath News

Congratulation go to Eileen Leonard

For getting three new paths added to the definitive map. Some years ago Eileen made a claim to have three paths added to the Cheshire definitive map. She had all but forgotten her claim when Cheshire East BC wrote to inform her that they had made a Deed of Dedication to create the claimed paths. The new Poynton with Worth 95 runs NE from Anglesey Drive (SJ 9235 8484) for 340 metres to Towers Road (SJ 9248 8515). Two shorter paths, Poynton with Worth 96 & 97, are spur paths off FP95. If you would like further information please contact Cheshire East Borough Council, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach, CW11 1HZ.

Sometimes the threat is enough

It is often the case that a Society Inspector reports a problem to the relevant Highway Authority only to become frustrated when little or no action is taken for many months. We recently had two such cases where the Inspector contacted our Courts & Inquiries Team.

The team assess the issue and if appropriate approve action. The next step is a '*Letter before Action*' which often brings a swift response. That was the case when Tony Brackenbury brought Chapel en le Frith 66 to John Harker where a trailer and other miscellaneous material often blocked the path. John's letter received the response that a s143 had been issued by DCC on the landowner. So far it looks as if this has been enough to prompt the owner into action rather than facing a 'bill' from DCC who could have sent contractors to clear the path if action had not been taken.

Terry Norris had to take things a little further when Pat Thomas reported Hyde 127 as out of repair. The letter before action did not bring a response and Terry duly issued a s56 Notice on Tameside. The response to the notice confirmed that the path was repairable at public expense and the assurance that a contractor had been appointed to carry out repair work. The before and after pictures, below show the final outcome.

So the moral is: 'don't feel frustrated if your reports don't get results', raise the matter with the C&IO team who will assess the problem.



Signpost report

Please note that all of our extant signposts, bridges, etc. can be seen with photos and exact locations on www.pnfs.org.uk in the "Signpost Gallery", thanks to the help of Mike Barnes.

When I wrote my contribution to the 2012 Annual Report in December 2012, five more signposts were "nearly ready". They are now in situ.

January - S435 was erected at Quarters Farm, Bradwell (GR SK172 793); S55 was reposted, then re-erected at Hr. Harthill Farm, Rowarth, following a collision with a tractor. Signposts 257, 159, 368, 249, 266, 301, 119 and 159 were "maintained", with particular help from Margaret and Bill Buckley on 159 at Rowarth.

February - S438 was erected at Sprotborough, Doncaster (GR SE531 014), becoming our most easterly signpost and our first in Doncaster. S439 was erected south of Bowden Hall and just north of Chapel en le Frith, in memory of John Bailey, founder and President of Chapel Rambling Club. Signposts 440, 441 and 442 were erected just north of Breckhead, Chapel Milton with fine views of South Head en route to the permitted path up the south ridge of South Head, which local farmers call "The Bernie Rothman Memorial Footpath".

There were no new signposts in March, April and May but S443, 445, 448 and 449 are almost ready to go up and I will report on these in the next Newsletter. We also agreed to assist the RA and Sheffield Co-op Ramblers with the refurbishment of three neglected signposts. S145 near Kettleshulme was also refurbished with help from Dave Brown.

As you know, we rely on donations to cover the cost of erecting new signposts and many members have financed signs together with plaques in remembrance of a relative, friend, or colleague who loved footpaths. The signposts are extremely well made and can be a tasteful, quality memorial which will be maintained by us indefinitely. To ensure that we cover our costs we now ask for a donation of £300. If you would like to make a donation in this way please contact me on 0161 283 7824.

We currently have signposts available at four locations for those of you who would like a memorial, commemorative or celebratory plaque on one of them. They are near to Lower Ballgreave Farm, Lamaload, Rainow; Quarters Farm, Bradwell; Breckhead, Chinley and Hay Lee farm, Combs.

Our aim is to increase the spread of signposts into new and more distant parts of our area as "silent ambassadors for PNFS" and these could increase the choices available for donations.

My thanks go to those of you whose generous donations have been vital to this aspect of the society's work and I also wish to thank John Adler, Tony Brackenbury, Mike Granger and Terry Woodhouse for their continuing help.

Dave Morton

Geoff Errington Tribute Walk

On Wed May 29th eleven of us took the Transpeak bus service from Buxton and met up with another nine of us waiting for our arrival at Whatstandwell near Ambergate. Amongst those waiting was Ruth Cozens, Geoff's partner for many years up until his tragic death in 2012.

Our party of 20 then proceeded the mile or so to Signpost 416 donated jointly by Ruth and Geoff to celebrate 30 years of happy walking together. We then made our way via pleasant field paths, woodland and country lanes to the Malt Shovel pub at Wirksworth Moor where a toast was given to Geoff's memory and all the good deeds he did for PNFS.

The very agreeable weather by now was on the turn and rain became the order of the day but we resolutely strode on towards Shining Cliff woods where some of the party decamped to nearby Ambergate due to time/transport constraints. The 10 of us remaining walked through the woods including a section of private territory for which we had kindly been given written permission by local landowner Henry George.

Back at Whatstandwell, having missed the 16.20 Transpeak bus, car share lifts reduced the active party to just 4!! And we made Buxton just as the monsoon season arrived and, due to curious time tabling where bus in/train out are both timed at 18.29, suffered the inevitable and had to take refuge in the Railway pub where Geoff's memory was again celebrated. All in all a rewarding and eventful day - thanks to all who came for doing a good man proud.

David Bratt



Nine members waiting for the eleven to arrive on the Trans Peak Bus

HS2 Update

HS2 may seem a long way off, if not many years away, however events are moving along in Staffordshire. Footpaths are being identified, and diversions are ready to go for Phase 1 of HS2. Here is an update on progress or the lack of it in Staffordshire.

Much has been happening recently on the political and media fronts with respect to plans for high speed rail. Many words have been spoken about the value to the economy, the reasons for increasing passenger capacity, the value or otherwise of saving on journey times and the environmental impacts. I do not propose to rehearse the arguments as I am sure you are heartily fed up with hearing them and anyway the situation is changing rapidly, so that by the time you read this, my words will probably have limited relevance.

What I would like to do is let members know how we stand in relation to the current situation with changes to rights of way in Staffordshire, how we perceive the performance of HS2 in relation to their promises to consult at all stages with users has panned out and to remind you of the time scales

The Hybrid Bill to give the legal framework for the project to go ahead is expected to go before parliament this year. Royal Assent should follow in 2015 and work should commence on Phase 1 in 2017, taking the line from London to Birmingham, with the line to the north feeding past Lichfield to join the west coast main line at Armitage/Handsacre. This route is now decided and work has commenced on the examining the detail of changes to the highway infrastructure which will result. Despite making contact with HS2 personnel

at a Stafford Seminar and a Lichfield road show, local volunteers from the user groups have not been approached and the proposed changes to the footpath network in Staffordshire have been presented to the Joint Access Forum and reported on by the County Council without details having been submitted to the Peak & Northern Footpath Society or to local volunteers. We are actively trying to remedy this situation. Fortunately, with help from others we have obtained the maps and other details so we are aware of what is being proposed. It does seem that HS2 are attempting to keep local activists at arms length until they are ready to make orders.

Having observed the above, I can report that the proposals for Staffordshire as far as Lichfield seem to bear out the stated intention to handle changes to the network sympathetically. Parts of some footpaths will inevitably disappear, but the question of keeping the network connected without making diversions too devious has been addressed. Footbridges (which ain't cheap) and underpasses are there in plenty. Of the eighteen paths we listed in Lichfield District, only a couple need a re-think and Staffordshire County Council has already highlighted these to HS2.

It is difficult to comment on the environmental impact of the construction and the operational periods. Some areas where we love to walk will never be the same again. Harry Scott and I walked in Hints near Lichfield recently and tried to visualise the post HS2 landscape. The picture was not a pretty one.

David Hewett

WALKS PROGRAMME

For all walks, check train or bus times near the date and bring lunch. All walkers joining a PNFS led walk should be appropriately dressed and are responsible for their own safety. Walk leaders reserve the right to exclude people from the walk without giving any reason for that decision. If the advertised transport is delayed, the leader must not start the walk until it arrives. Walk leaders should be conversant with the Society's Walk Leaders Policy, which can be viewed on our website.

SHORT WALKS

Wednesday 10 July

Leader Ian MacKenzie (01663 742920)

Dinting 6 mile circular.

Train from Piccadilly 10.18.

Start Dinting railway station 10.45.

Some gentle climbs, expect mud in places.

Wednesday 14 August

Leader Peter Vickers (0161 748 8135)

Marple Bridge to Bredbury Linear approx 6 miles.

Train from Piccadilly 10.45

Start Marple station 11.15. Return from Bredbury which is on the same line.

Easy, scenic linear walk.

Wednesday 11 September

Leader John Fisher (01625 439298, mob 0797 2072 744)

Congleton to Kidsgrove via the Gritstone Trail 8 miles.

Train from Piccadilly 09.48

Start Congleton station 10.30. Return from Kidsgrove which is on the same line.

Easy ascents, scenic linear walk.

LONGER WALKS

Wednesday 31 July

Leader Bill Minshall (07771 985846)

Congleton circular 10m/1500ft ascent

Train from Piccadilly 09.48.

Walk starts Congleton station 10.30

Wednesday 28 August

Leader Judith Halman (01477 534398)

Disley stn to Stockport stn linear 10m/1300ft ascent

Train from Piccadilly 09.52.

Walk starts Disley station 10.25

Wednesday 25 September

Leader Vince Joyce (01942 603626)

Buxton stn to Whaley Bridge stn linear 12m/2000ft ascent

Train from Piccadilly 09.52

Walk starts Buxton station 10.55

The Peak and Northern Footpaths Society
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*David Bratt, Ruth Cozens and John Broadbent
pay tribute to Geoff Errington*

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