

SIGNPOST

Newsletter of the
Peak and Northern Footpaths Society

All members are invited to the

Half Year Meeting

Saturday 19th November

at

Britannia Hotel, Dialstone Lane, Offerton, Stockport, SK2 6AG

Ample free car parking is available

Number 383 bus from Stockport and 384 from Marple stop near the Hotel
Service 192 and 199 stop on nearby A6

10.30	Coffee, tea, biscuits	13.30	Presentation & questions
11.00	Meeting commences	14.30	Members forum
12.30	Hot buffet lunch	15.30	Meeting closes

To reserve your place at the meeting please inform David Brown

Email: pnfs.meetings@gmail.com • Tel: 01663 733236 • Text: 07732 682026

no later than 11 November, stating if lunch is required.

To help defray catering costs a donation of at least £8.50 is invited



A word from the Chair

David Hurrell

Thoughts of the past summer, with its variable weather conditions, will soon be a distant memory. We have had pleasant days for walking, but equally some rather poor, unseasonal ones. The best day for me was one of near perfection - walking in the beautiful Derbyshire Dales, with plenty of sunshine, fleecy white clouds in the sky, a clear atmosphere for good views and a gentle breeze to keep the flies away. There are many good paths to walk in this area, away from the very popular ones.

Contrast that summer day with one a few weeks earlier, when it was the Peak & Northern Long Walk. Rain started to fall steadily before the walk began, continuing until about an hour before it ended. Trudging through uncut hay fields, with the long grass obscuring the path and with water running down the legs and into the boots, it soon became obvious that this was not going to be one of the best walks of the year. But Peak & Northern walkers are a tough bunch and we carried on to the end, prompting the leader to suggest that he may be nominated for the worst walk of the year award!

On a more serious note, you will read elsewhere in 'Signpost' about a campaign by British Cycling for all Public Footpaths to be open for use by cyclists. This is where there is a need for a little understanding, as a number of PNFS members are, or have been, cyclists. However, at a recent Management Meeting, following discussion, it was decided to oppose the campaign. We all like to walk our footpaths in peace and safety, able to stop and look at the scenery without fear of being hit from behind by a cyclist. With the creation of numerous cycle routes recently, both in the countryside and through urban areas, recreational opportunities for cyclists have never been greater.

We hope that you will support our Officers and Trustees in their view that the nation's Public Footpaths should remain for use by people on foot only.

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Mike Barnes, our webmaster, on 8th September. Mike worked wonders with the website, an important part of the Society in the digital age and a means of communicating with younger people, as well as being a great source of information for Society members. Please see later in the newsletter for an obituary to Mike by Mel Bale, our recently appointed Membership Secretary, who has also very kindly taken over the role of webmaster for the Society.

It is also sad to report that Jack Burling, who became a Trustee of the Society again on his return from a decade in Cornwall, has had to resign his position because of ill health. Jack brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the team, as well as knowing the right person to contact when help was needed, and who would make a good speaker at our meetings. We shall miss Jack and all he brought to the Society.





Wildness and wet

Roly Smith

One of the biggest news stories of the year has been the unprecedented flooding, especially in the north of England. Places like Hebden Bridge, the Calder Valley and Carlisle have been devastated yet again, and much has been made of the need for greater flood protection. But I believe, as do a number of leading environmentalists, that the greater need now is for longer-term flood prevention.

In a time of obvious climate change, the management of land in the catchment areas upstream of the flooded towns and villages becomes vitally important. The creation of heavily Government-subsidised burned and drained grouse moors, such as the Peak District and other areas covered by the Peak & Northern, undoubtedly increases the risk of flooding further downstream.

But in 2014, as essential public services were being savagely cut back, the Government quietly raised the subsidies to moorland owners by a staggering 84 per cent.

The Guardian's George Monbiot has described the managers of our grouse moors as treating them as "giant chicken runs." They drain the land, eradicate predators, and burn the heather to stimulate the young shoots on which the grouse feed, only to be later shot by an elite paying thousands of pounds a day for the privilege.

*What would the world be,
once bereft
Of wet and of wildness?
Let them be left,
O let them be left,
wildness and wet;
Long live the weeds
and the wilderness yet.*

From "**Inversnaid**"
by Gerard Manley Hopkins
(1881)

(continued overleaf)

This was known in Euro-speak as keeping the land in “agricultural condition”, and in simple terms, it means that if the managers don’t keep the hills bare, they don’t get their money. It also means that “permanent ineligible features”, such as scrub, woodland, bogs, ponds and other features which harbour rare wildlife and hold back floodwater, have to be cleared. Despite the “Brexit” vote in June, it appears most of these regulations will stay in force for the foreseeable future.

To their credit, bodies such as Moors for the Future and the National Trust have realised the short-sighted folly of this policy, and are actively re-wetting and re-wilding moorlands such as those on Kinder Scout and Bleaklow.

Re-wilding is yet another controversial policy, and has included the successful re-introduction of animals like beavers in Scotland and elsewhere.

The problem that Britain has is that the country no longer has a top predator – if you discount humankind. Wolves were exterminated in this country in medieval times, although their former presence is still recalled in place names like Wolve (also known as Wove) Hill on Kinder Scout and Wooler Knoll near Hope Brink in the Woodlands Valley.

The most successful re-introduction of wolves has been to the Yellowstone National Park, on the borders of Montana and Wyoming. Almost overnight, by a process known as a “trophic cascade” they have re-adjusted the balance of Nature.

The wolves’ predation on the out-of-control elk population has encouraged the growth of trees on riverbanks, providing better conditions for insects which are fed on by songbirds, and cover for reptiles, beavers, muskrats and otters. The returning trees have also stabilised the riverbanks, reducing the rate of erosion and narrowing their widths, creating better breeding conditions for fish.

The over-population of red deer in Scotland and other places is becoming a problem very similar to that of the Yellowstone elk. If we can overcome the irrational fears generated by the “big bad wolf” fairytale – and it really is just that – maybe someday we will see wolves roaming freely again on Wolve Hill and Wooler Knoll?

Roly Smith is president of the *Outdoor Writers’ and Photographers’ Guild (OWPG)* and a member of the *British Guild of Travel Writers*.

He is also Commissioning Editor for *Frances Lincoln Publishing*, a freelance writer, editor and media consultant, and the author of over 80 books on walking and the countryside.

Based in Bakewell, Roly was formerly Head of Information Services with the Peak District National Park, the busiest in Europe. He was recently dubbed ‘Mr Peak District’ in the local press. Previously he enjoyed a 20-year, award-winning career in daily paper journalism, latterly with the *Birmingham Post and Mail*. He was chairman of the OWPG for 11 years before being elected its president in 2001, and an honorary life member in 2006.

He is vice-president of the *South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire area of the Ramblers’ Association*, and a regular contributor to outdoor and heritage magazines. Roly is also a regular author and contributor to a variety of publications produced by the AA, Readers’ Digest and others. He is a media consultant to *Baseefa Ltd*, editor of *Archaeology & Conservation in Derbyshire* and a member of the editorial panel for *Wild Derbyshire*.

He has organised the last three anniversary celebrations of the Kinder Scout Mass Trespass, and his book on Kinder won the Alan Ball Local History award from the Libraries Association



Retirement of a Long-Standing Inspector, Robert Fysh

June Mabon

Robert Fysh was first introduced to the PNFS by his fellow steam railway enthusiast and footpath champion, Donald Lee. Joining in the early 1960s, he soon found himself volunteering to be the Footpath Inspector for Trafford. PNFS did not have the central Taylor House office then, so monthly Inspectors' meetings were held in the Friends Meeting House, near St Peter's Square library, Manchester. Pre-dating internet, emails and blogs, communications were largely face-to-face, with frequent meetings essential to keep everyone updated and in synchronisation with each other.

Footpath Inspectors then spent more time addressing specific problems than checking every path in their "patch". Robert soon utilised fellow walkers in Trafford, especially in Timperley where he has lived all his life. He designed a form, allowing them to provide the details to present a problem, in a lucid manner, to the local highway authority. Robert's attention to detail, developed over 39 years as a draughtsman, came into play here and a more comprehensive and easy to complete form is difficult to imagine. The Society has a record of attracting people with specialist skills and Robert soon got to know the Society's Legal Adviser Adrian Littleton. The two gave evidence at many Public Inquiries, complementing each other with Adrian's expert knowledge and skill, and Robert's dry wit and quick thinking when challenged by opposing witnesses.

When the Society moved into Taylor House, there was more opportunity to co-ordinate paperwork and, as a cost saving measure, Inspectors started delivering the annual report by hand to their local communities. Always one to chat, Robert quickly found out that, for many PNFS members, the annual report was their only communication with the Society. At one of the monthly meetings, he proposed that there should be a more frequent communication with members and, following his suggestion, "Signpost" newsletter was born in October 2000.



As the Society matured, the desirability of a logo became apparent. Chairman Leslie Meadowcroft instigated a competition to find a suitable offering. Robert's stone wall with stile and finger-post (stiles were not out of favour in those days) reached the shortlist, subsequently being voted the outright winning design. That draughtsman background again! Today's design is only slightly modified, using a pinch stile to align with our aims of greater accessibility.

Our PNFS green-painted metal signs not only inform walkers, but also advertise our Society. Robert promoted these within his local walking group, the Altrincham & District Walking club, helping the Group fund five PNFS signs in popular hiking territories within the PNFS's boundaries, each one with dedications to club walkers. Robert Fysh has contributed hugely to the development and promotion of our Society. He now enjoys his retirement at the Woodend Care Home in Altrincham, following a fall that resulted in him needing to use a wheelchair. The quick wit is still there though, the memories are as clear as a bell and he has a continuing interest in rights of way preservation and protection. Robert, we salute you and thank you for your invaluable contribution to our Society over many years.

Cycling on Public Footpaths - a personal view

Your Chairman, David Hurrell, mentioned in his opening remarks that the Society had decided to oppose the current campaign by British Cycling for cyclists to be able to ride bikes along all Public Footpaths (<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/campaigning/article/20160706-campaigning-news-Open-up-countryside-paths-for-people-on-bikes-say-outdoor-groups-0>). Many of us may well be cyclists, or have been cyclists in the past and we may well sympathise with giving cyclists more protection from increasingly heavy traffic on our busy roads and their frantic traffic. However, the purpose of this Society is to protect footpaths. By their very nature, footpaths are for walkers and the Society takes the view that walkers' interests must come first. Those of us using public footpaths regularly will know the potential for being hit from behind by a cyclist when both walkers and cyclists share narrow paths. In my cycling days, admittedly a long time ago, all bikes had a bell, or sometimes a horn, with which to warn others. Use of the brakes rather than the bell would, on reflection, have been more considerate, but nowadays it seems bells are for wimps and no self-respecting mountain-biker would be seen dead with one. It does not seem that the absence of bells has led to greater use of brakes. I expect most of us know well the experience of feeling the draught as cyclists whizz by and realising that if we'd have wobbled slightly, we'd have been whacked in the back and probably knocked over. This campaign by British Cycling seeks to persuade Government that cyclists must be given the right to access all Public Footpaths in England and Wales. This is based on two main arguments: public support; and examples where shared access to footpaths is claimed to have been a success.

The public support argument is rather flimsily based on a survey of 2,000 people commissioned by British Cycling themselves to a series of loaded questions. The examples of successful shared working include Scotland and two mountains in Wales – Snowdon and Moel Famau.

Scotland has always, as you know, had more generous access to the countryside than England and, with a vastly lower population density and much greater availability of 'wild' spaces, is not comparable with the predominantly lowland and agricultural nature of large parts of England. In the case of the two Welsh mountains, we are dealing with broad, well-defined tracks with plenty of space for both walkers and cyclists – again not typical of your average English footpath.

Two other examples, possibly familiar to some of you, are cited by British Cycling – an access arrangement in the Eastern Moors area of the Peak District National Park and the Sheepskull Trail in Sheffield. I don't personally know these areas, but the fact is that these are also in effect bridleways, not typical paths. British Cycling claims that self-policing ensures observance of the agreements, but, even if this is correct, no doubt they put some effort into self-policing these few limited areas. We must be doubtful as to how effective this would be on a nationwide basis.

Lastly, we know the physical damage that cycling, especially mountain-biking, can do to the surface of paths, particularly in wet or muddy conditions. Also, many public footpaths are unsuitable for bikes due to frequent gates and stiles, rough terrain, or a path's narrowness. For these reasons, the Society decided to oppose the British Cycling campaign and your chairman has written to the Secretary of State to express our objections and also to Ramblers to seek their support and offer co-operation in fighting the proposals.

Gavin Miller



Another successful footbridge project

Neil Collie

In a third successful project carried out in collaboration with Stockport Council, a donation to PNFS from a former member, John Pickstone, helped improve a tricky crossing of Gigg Brook, North of Etherow Country Park, Compstall.

His son Jon commented that:

“Dad loved walking and was a strong supporter of the work that the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society do in protecting and improving the footpath network in the northern counties of England. He would have been proud of what has been achieved in this location”.



On 5th September 2016, members of Stockport Council and PNFS met on-site at the footbridge to formally hand over a cheque for £2,556. This will cover the cost of the footbridge and associated bank protection works. The photo shows our Chair, David Hurrell, handing over the cheque to Ernest Nama, Senior Rights of Way Officer at Stockport Council, with Sid Lloyd, a Councillor for Stockport and other members of PNFS also present.

Councillor Sheila Bailey, Stockport Council's Executive Member for Communities and Housing said:

“This is an excellent example of positive partnership working. We are committed to encouraging all outdoor pursuits which will improve the health and well-being of our residents. The Peak and Northern Footpaths Society is to be congratulated on this achievement.”

The photos below illustrate the difference that it is hoped the bridge will make when Gigg Brook is in spate. Walkers can look forward to their feet not squelching in their boots when they get back from a walk in this area in periods of heavy rain.



Getting to Know the Long Distance Walkers Association

The Long Distance Walkers' Association (LDWA) was formed in 1972 to further the common interests of those who enjoy Long Distance Walking. Since then, it has grown from 355 members to over 7,000 at present. Local Groups are the life-blood of the Association, organising walks and other social events. There are 10 local groups in the PNFS area: South Manchester; Merseyside; South Pennine; West Yorks; Vermuyden (South Yorks); East Lancs; West Lancs; Calderdale; Staffs; and High Peak. Details of local groups can be found on the website: www.ldwa.org.uk.

LDWA events take two forms - 'challenge' walks and 'group' walks. All LDWA events are non-competitive, except in the sense of competing to complete a challenge. They all use Public Rights of Way (PROWs), providing a common interest between our society and the LDWA.

A Challenge Event is a walk mostly on footpaths and other PROWs, across open fields and moors, avoiding tarmac if possible. The challenge is to the individual, (e.g. 30 miles in 10 hours). At least one option over 20 miles is included. All events have checkpoints, many with refreshments, but it is essential to also carry your own water and energy-giving food. Entry fees, including refreshments, are typically between £7 and £15. Local groups host regular Group Walks, led by one of their experienced members, often including a pub or cafe stop for socialising. They vary between 15 - 25 miles, depending on the season and offer both a challenge and a chance to explore new areas. Group walks are free to all LDWA members. Guests can attend up to three walks free and then are requested to join the LDWA.

The LDWA magazine is called 'Strider' and contains details of challenge and group walks across the country. Well illustrated, with 100+ pages, 'Strider' is published three times a year.



David Gosling

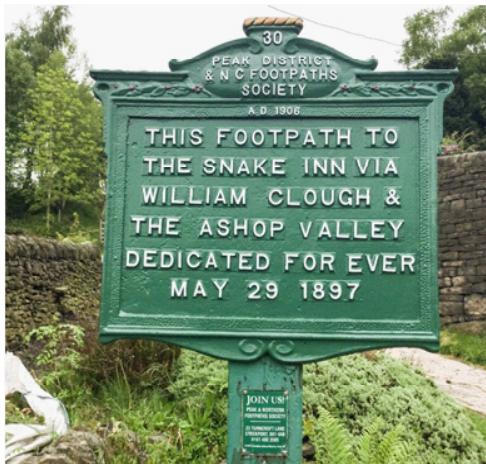
There is also 'The Hillwalkers' Register' which records members' achievements in completing 'registers' of hills (e.g. The Wainwrights, The Birketts, The County Tops, The Deweys). LDWA publications such as the UK Trailwalkers Handbook give details of all the Long Distance Paths in the country. Information about these are also on the LDWA website.



Individual membership is £13. Some PNFS volunteers are keen members of the LDWA, including Paul Easthope (Treasurer), Dave Gosling (Inspectors' Coordinator) and Jerzy 'George' Matuszewski (Taylor House volunteer). The photos show PNFS volunteer, Jerzy 'George' Matuszewski, registering for The Goyt Valley Challenge and walkers setting off on it.



Commemorating our Society's First Success



When our Society was founded on 16th August 1894, its immediate priority was to establish the existence of a right of way from Hayfield to the Woodlands at Ashopdale – often referred to as the Snake Path. This not inconsiderable task was successfully accomplished in less than 3 years, with a formal opening ceremony on 29th May 1897 by the Society's President Sir W H Bailey.

Life may be very different 120 years on from that opening ceremony, but at its core, the work of the Society to "monitor, protect and improve the footpath network for the benefit of all" is fundamentally in line with our original objectives. The characteristics of the approach that we followed in the 1890's – seeking resolution by tact, diplomacy and co-operation, but not afraid to resort to legal action if required – also still holds good today. As the Manchester Guardian reported on 24th September 1896:

"The Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society has happily succeeded in its first enterprise. The favourite route over Kinder Scout, from Hayfield to the Snake Inn, has been secured for ever to the public... This peaceful victory over the land-owners who threatened for a time to close the path... speaks volumes for the energy and tact displayed by the officials of the Society".

With 2017 marking the 120th anniversary of this auspicious occasion, we are planning to have a celebration in recognition next May. We would like to hold it as close as possible to the date of the original official opening and therefore, it will take place on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th May. We plan a celebration in Hayfield and a walk along at least part of the Snake Path.

We hope that you will put the date in your diary and look forward to seeing you on that weekend in Hayfield. Further details of the event will be published in due course.

Ian Salvage



SIR WILLIAM H. BAILEY
(From a photograph by Mr. Frank Bowen, Manchester and London.)



Dave Rigby

Walking the Write Way

I can't remember when it started - maybe I've always done it. Making up stories as I walk! So there I am, on a footpath, winding up a hillside, listening to the wind in the trees. Part of me is thinking about the walk and wondering what happens at the top of the hill, or how long I'll manage to wait before I start on the sandwiches. But another part of me is not quite there on the hillside. A couple of characters may be slowly taking shape in my mind, a bit indistinct to start with, but they gradually fill out. Or a plotline begins to develop. Most of these thoughts can stay in my head until they're needed, but now and then I'll have to stop and jot something down in the notebook that lives in my rucksack.

It was round about the time I started walking with PNFS that I started writing - well, what they call creative writing, to distinguish it from things like writing long and boring reports for work. I'd done plenty of those, but I had to unlearn that way of writing. I went on a course at the local college and began to write short stories. It took a while, but eventually I managed to produce something that was long enough to count as a book.

And this is where the walking helps. It stimulates the writing - something to do with how I feel when I'm out there, that mix of landscape, weather, fresh air, physical exercise and of course the company of fellow PNFS walkers! All this provides the spark for new ideas.

I've recently published two books. When I say published, what I mean is self-published. That's basically where I pay a publisher to do the necessary and then get some boxes of books delivered to my door. I suppose it's a kind of reverse advance! If by any chance you're interested in reading some original Rigby, my books are available from Troubador Publishing, through bookshops or online.

- **Darkstone** – a thriller set in 2020's Scotland, about the security state
- **Shoreline** – a contemporary thriller, set in Belgium, about people-smuggling

Keep walking – and reading!

Our First Commemorative Gate

Last year, our Management Team decided to further help people with disabilities by funding suitable projects that would replace stiles with gates. The idea was proposed at last year's Half-Year Meeting and approved by the Members present.

Fast forward a little - during negotiations with Stockport Metropolitan Council about a new footbridge on Bredbury footpath 6 (see report earlier in this Signpost edition), the Council mentioned that it was replacing a stile with a new, high-quality, metal kissing gate. This seemed to offer the perfect opportunity for our first project, assuming the landowner's permission could be obtained. In the end, we financed 80% of the gate's cost, but still a good start.

If you wish to visit the new bridge and gate, they are located at grid ref SJ 9624 9115, by PNFS signpost 205. Access is from Compstall Road, or School Lane (by Mortin Farm).

The path is rather overgrown in places and also indistinct, but walkable



Paul Easthorpe

Mike Barnes

– Obituary



It is with great sadness that we have to report that Mike Barnes, the society's Webmaster, died on 8th September of prostate cancer. Mike was a lifelong walker and outdoor enthusiast. Like many others before him, he first became aware of the society through its famous green signposts. He joined the society in 2006 and soon volunteered as a footpath inspector, covering a wide variety of parishes in Cheshire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire.

Mike was born in Southampton and having attended a number of different schools, went on to Cambridge to study Natural Sciences. University life afforded him the opportunity to develop a wide range of musical tastes which were very important to him throughout his life. Much later he was to design what he called 'Mike's Jukebox', his own digital music system, many years before such things became commercially available.

His first job after university was as a computer programmer with Hawker Siddeley Aviation. This was in 1969 when computing was still in its infancy and not particularly fashionable, but for Mike it was the perfect job. He had been bitten by the coding bug and it would stay with him and sustain him for the rest of his life. Eventually he started his own successful business developing 'shrink wrapped' software.

When Mike retired, he was keen to continue to use and enhance his programming skills. He helped support IT developments at the Princes Trust and he took on the role of webmaster for the society's web site following the death of his predecessor Geoff Errington. Mike built on the strong foundations that Geoff had laid and over time introduced a number of significant enhancements. The most recent was a suite of Geo Data applications, which are enabling the society to take full advantage of digital mapping to monitor and protect PRoWs. He worked closely with other members to ensure that these applications met the needs of the society. It is a tribute to Mike's enthusiasm and commitment that he was still working on the web site during the last few days of his life.

Mike devoted many, many hours to the society. He was passionate about footpaths and simply wanted to do his bit to ensure that others could enjoy them just as he had done throughout his life. The society is very grateful for all the work that he did on its behalf. Those who were fortunate enough to have known him, however briefly, have lost a good friend.

Mike's funeral took place at Stockport crematorium on 24th September. It was a very fitting celebration of his life. The society was represented by our chairman and a number of PNFS friends and colleagues.

Mike is survived by his wife, Rebecca and his two brothers, Peter and Derek.

Mel Bale

Short Walks

John Fisher

Wednesday October 12th

Leader: Martin Riley (01706 848408).
Ashton to Oldham, 7 miles.
Start Ashton tram stop 11:00.
M'chr Picc tram leaving approx. 10:25.

Wednesday November 9th

Leader: Dave Rigby (01484 846812).
Linthwaite circular, 6 miles undulating.
Meet Slathwaite Stn 10:35 for short bus ride.
Train from M'chr Vic 09:57 or M'chr Picc 09:41,
change Stalybridge

Wednesday December 14th

No short walk, see longer walk on same day.

Wednesday January 11th

Leader: John Fisher (01625 439298)
Alderley Edge circular, 5 miles, 1 ascent.
Walk starts Alderley Edge station 11:10.
Train from M'chr Picc 10:38.

Wednesday February 8th

Leader: Martin Riley (01706 848408).
Smithy Bridge to Littleborough, 7 miles.
Walk starts Smithy Bridge station 10:55.
Train from M'chr Vic to Smithy Bridge 10:26.

Wednesday March 8th

Leader: Paul Easthope (01457 855015).
Glossop area, details to follow.

Wednesday April 12th

Leader: Ian Salvage (01663 746979).
Hayfield circular, 8 miles, some hills.
Walk starts Hayfield bus stn approx. 11:00.
Train from M'chr Picc 09:50 to New Mills,
then bus to Hayfield.



Marsden walk, Aug 2016

Longer Walks

David Bratt

Wednesday October 26th

Leader: Phil Gadsby (0161 748 5757)
Linear walk Mytholmroyd to Littleborough,
11.5 miles, 1500 ft ascent.
Walk starts Mytholmroyd Stn 11:00.
Train from M'chr Vic 10:16

Wednesday November 30th

Leader: Ian Salvage (01663 746979).
Chinley circular via Hayfield, 11 miles, hilly.
Walk starts Chinley Station 11:30.
Train from M'chr Picc 10:49.

Wednesday December 14th

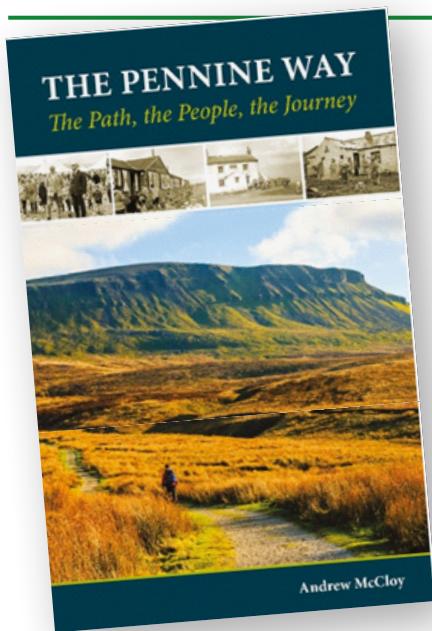
Leaders: Paul Easthope (01457 855015) and
Nev McGraw (01457 854483)
Linear walk Godley to Glossop
10 miles, 1900ft ascent
Werneth Low, Etherow Park and first PNFS
memorial gate.
Walk starts Godley stn 10.05
Man Picc stn 09.46

Wednesday January 25th

Leader David Brown (01663 733236)
Linear walk Peak Forest to Buxton
10 miles, 1200ft ascent
Walk starts 10.15 (earliest) Peak Forest.
Man Picc stn 08.49 to Whaley Bridge then
190 bus at 09.45 to Peak Forest

Wednesday February 22th

Leader David Bratt (01925 762472)
Disley circular
10 miles, 1500 ft ascent incl. Sponds Hill
Walk starts 10.20
Man Picc stn 09.49



The Pennine Way: *The Path, the People, the Journey*

by Andrew McCloy
(Cicerone Press, 2016)

This book gives you far more than an account of one man's 268-mile trek from Edale to Kirk Yetholm. As you'd expect, there's the scenery he saw, the places he stayed, the people he met along the way. But these observations grow into conversations on the history, geology, ecology and philosophy of the Pennine Way, so you feel you are getting to know the path in all its moods and meanings: it becomes your travelling companion as well as your trail. We meet notable personalities of the Pennine Way, including its creator Tom Stephenson and its early chronicler Alfred Wainwright. From the start, Stephenson saw the Pennine Way as more than a long green path: besides promoting 'the physical and spiritual wellbeing of the Youth of Britain' it was part of the campaign for access to mountains and moorland. Even so, planning and securing the route took nearly 30 vexatious years.

These days the main challenges to the path include the need for ongoing maintenance. Whether you see Pennine peat bogs as a symbol of the wild, a challenge to your stamina or an endless slough of despond, they are an endangered environment. Peat has vital ecological importance as a carbon store, but overuse erodes its surface and destroys vegetation. Mr McCloy argues that paving the wettest stretches with recycled stone slabs may offend purists, but proves a sustainable way to protect fragile moorland while enabling walkers to enjoy it.

People walk the Pennine Way for different reasons, as the author discovered from talking to fellow-travellers. Some take it on chiefly as a challenge – physical and mental. Others seek solitude and time for contemplation. Some see it as a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage; a few return again and again, finding new delights each time. Mr McCloy sees it also as testament to 'our basic need to have access to natural and uncluttered spaces where we can be challenged like this'. Undoubtedly it has encouraged thousands to explore and appreciate the northern hills, and has fostered a network of walking trails, hostels, B&Bs and teashops.

In the final miles, we return to Tom Stephenson in the setting he loved best, the Cheviot Hills, to honour 'a lifetime spent campaigning for the public's right to access the hills and the protection of wild places'.

Thoughtful, thought provoking and compellingly readable, this book reveals the Pennine Way in many lights. 'The Pennine Way story is tightly bound up with the long fight for access and landscape, the National Parks Act 1949 and all that went with it. It chronicles our outdoor heritage, the protection of special landscapes, and above all how common people asserted the right to walk among their own hills.'

And in personal terms: Andrew McCloy completed his journey with sore knees but a warm sense of fulfilment: 'the Pennine hills were mine, because I had walked over them, and they were now part of me and nothing could ever take that away.'

Judy Brown

Signpost Report, September 2016



David Morton

This period: 10 signposts added, 5 in the pipeline, 1 stolen. The current total is 453.

Signposts under or near trees often need a clean. Please carry a nail brush and spare water.

Phone 0161 283 7824, if you have any questions, or wish to "adopt" any of 21,487 (Chinley), 506, 507, 510, 511, 514, 517, 518, 520/1/2/4/5/6/9.

Their locations are shown above or on the Signpost Gallery of our website, together with photos.

Additions

SP	Location	Additional Information
S025	SK 18459 85057, near Win Hill	Erected IMO Leslie Hewett 1888-1956 by John Atkins (farmer)
S516	SK 14120 91599, Bircham Hat by Alport Castles	On footpath HW4. Erected by NT Ranger, financed by NT
S519	SK 17214 86024 near Win Hill	Volunteers based at the NT Centre, Edale End
S520	SK 01909 81589, Mosley Hall Farm, Whaley Bridge	Erected IMO Colin Hardwick 1957-2014 by John Atkins (farmer)
S521	SK 02078 81554, Mosley Hall Farm, Whaley Bridge	Junction of footpaths 39 & 40. Work by John and Ted.
S522	SK 02046 81360, Mosley Hall Farm, Whaley Bridge	Junction of footpaths 39 & 41. Work by John and Ted.
S525	SK 01536 89509, Back Rowarth	On footpath 41. Work by John and Ted.
S526	SD 67736 17102, Hr Pastures Farm, N Turton	Erected by John and Ted.
S527	SD 64603 19060, Great Hill, Withnell CP, Darwen	On footpath 8. Erected by farmer
S529	SD 65487 40938, 250m W of trig point on Longridge Fell, Lancs.	Junction of footpaths 25 & 62. Plate uses existing finger-post, first erected by Blackburn RA in 2000, which had lost fingers.
		Junction of footpaths 3-3 22 & 3-41 67. Suggested by Footpath Inspector Shirley Addy. Erected by John and Ted.

In the pipeline

S523/8 Hassop (footpath 10); S530/1/2 Springhead Farm and Wicken Walls, Quarnford; S533/4 Hr Hud Lee Farm, Dutton, Hurst Green (between Longridge and Clitheroe).

Maintenance

S098, S116, S151, S169, S174, S181, S182, S211; repainted by Pete and Mike. S099, S219; cleaned.

Stolen

S228. Erected Dec 1991 at SJ 96680 88831, Low Lea Rd, Marple Bridge, on footpaths 79 & 80.

Reported stolen, replacement ready.

Two new footpaths

2 new public footpaths were recently added to Stocksbridge Parish (Sheffield) Definitive Map by a confirmed Order.

Hunshelf Parish Council (affiliated to PNFS) claimed them as rights of way.

John Harker from PNFS advised the applicant (a parish councillor) to apply to Barnsley Council, as a short section of the claimed path lay in Barnsley. Sheffield Council did not at the time have an officer able to process an application to add a path to the Definitive Map. Barnsley Council's Definitive Map

Review Officer researched the case and obtained authority for an Order for the Barnsley section, while Sheffield Council made an Order for the Sheffield section. There were no objections to the Barnsley Order, so confirmation is expected imminently. The Barnsley section connects Footpaths 76 & 77 from point B to point C on the Order Plan shown, but north of the wall which forms the Sheffield / Barnsley boundary.

A suggested walk in the area can be found on the Stocksbridge 'Walkers Are Welcome'

website at <http://www.stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk/Walks/HunshelfBank.html>



John Harker

Socialising with the Earl of Derby

Keith Wykes

On 14 August 2016, I spent a very pleasant day - picking bilberries along Charity Lane (Macclesfield Forest And Wildboarclough CP) for a plated bilberry pie on Christmas Day - and then, at 3pm, attending the Annual Rush-bearing Service at St Stephen's Church, Macclesfield Forest (commonly known as Forest Chapel).

The Earl of Derby read the 2nd lesson. Afterwards I made it my business to pass to him a copy of the Society's Brochure / Membership Leaflet and we discussed relevant P&N matters; he seemed genuinely interested in our works and confessed to ***not having previously heard of us!*** No doubt our signposts are situate on his land (as Freeholder) whereas the tenanted landowner would have given us the necessary permissions. He said he would read the leaflet with interest.



My Favourite Café

Mel Bale



Scarthin Café is unique in the Peak District. Not only is it one of the only vegetarian and vegan cafés in the National Park but it is also located within what is arguably the most eclectic book shop in Derbyshire if not the North Midlands.



Scarthin Café

The café is in Cromford village, itself part of the Derwent Valley UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is an ideal location from which to explore very popular areas of the Peak District and some of the less well known ones. It serves a wide range of vegetarian and vegan meals and cakes, at very reasonable prices. The food is full of flavour, very tasty and filling. Recent visits with meat-eating friends have prompted comments such as 'I didn't realise that veggie food could taste so good' and 'Can I have another slice of that gluten free cake!' The service is excellent, friendly and helpful. The café also stocks a wide range of magazines and journals which you are free to peruse during your meal.

One word of warning - you have to pass through the bookshop to get to the café and its new and second hand stock is just as tempting as the food upstairs!

Scarthin Café & Scarthin Bookshop, The Promenade, Cromford, Derbyshire DE4 3QE.

National Grid Reference: SK 294 569. Telephone: 01629 823272 <http://scarthinbooks.com/>

Open Monday to Saturday 9:30 to 5:15 (lunches 12:00 to 3:00), Sunday 10:00 to 5:15 (lunches 12:00 to 3:00).

Closed Christmas and Boxing Day

Please send articles on your own favourite to Ian Salvage (email publicity@pnfs.org.uk) or post to Taylor House

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mail@pnfs.org.uk.



*On the recent Marsden Long Walk, a contender was spotted for most waymarked post.
Do you have a better example? Send to: publicity@pnfs.org.uk.*

**Do you know anyone who might
be interested in joining the Society?**

Then point them to our website membership page
<http://www.peakandnorthern.org.uk/support-us/membership.htm>
to see all of the benefits + how to join

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Design and print by Lymetrees Tel / text 07984 059150

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the Society