

SIGNPOST

Newsletter of the
Peak and Northern Footpaths Society



Chairman's Piece

David Hurrell, Chairman

I sometimes think that we walkers are a bit like gardeners; the weather is never 'just right' for what we want to do. Of course many of us are both walkers and gardeners. In winter it can be too cold and windy, in Spring and Autumn it can be too wet and in summer it can be too hot and sticky. This winter has been quite dry, even though it has been wet under foot at times.

I make a point of looking at the water levels in the reservoirs as I walk around, and on the east side of the Pennines, at least three reservoirs never fully filled. There has only been one week during the whole of winter when I could not get out because of the weather. With the forecast for a dry summer there may be some dusty feet later in the year.

Our AGM in April was not as well attended as some years. Perhaps this was because there was nothing controversial on the Agenda. Nevertheless, it was a good meeting where members were able to hear about the ongoing work of the Society. Our speaker was Julie Gough of Friends of the Peak District who described the work that has gone into creating the Peak Park Boundary Walk, which will be launched on Saturday 17th June with an event in Buxton and a series of walks around the whole length of the route. By the time you read this, the launch event will have taken place and some of us will have experienced at least some of the many features of the park boundary.

Your Trustees are continuing discussions with a Solicitor on the way to make our Constitution more encompassing of the work we wish to do in a changed environment as far as Public Rights of Way are concerned. Less and less work is being carried out by Public Rights of Way departments, leading to a deterioration of path surfaces and overgrown vegetation. It has been noted that the Chiltern Society, an organisation not dissimilar to our own, are far more proactive in footpath maintenance work than we are. There may be an opportunity for dialog between the two Societies to determine just how the Chiltern Society works with the local authorities in their area.



Photograph by
M.Crisham

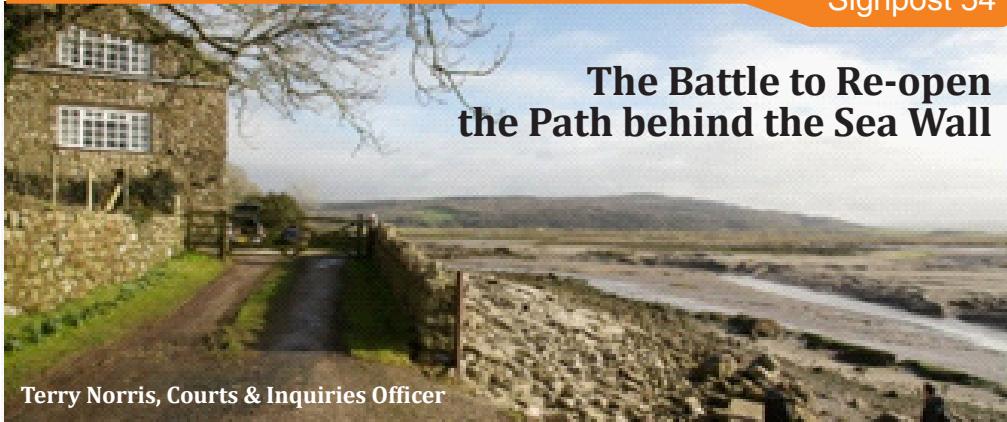
As I write this, preparations for the 120th celebrations of the opening of the Snake Path are almost complete. This will be quite an event for Peak & Northern Footpaths Society, as it is not often we have the opportunity to host such an event. Spread over two days, with the events in Hayfield on the Saturday, followed by the walk along the Snake Path on the Sunday, it should be a memorable occasion and a tremendous weekend. Again, when you read this, the event will have taken place, hopefully with plenty of memories.

The thanks of everyone go to Ian Salvage for all the planning and hard work that has gone into the event. Without Ian, this event would not have happened.

Thank you Ian.



Front cover: our 120th anniversary celebrations.
Photographs by D. E. Toft



The Battle to Re-open the Path behind the Sea Wall

Terry Norris, Courts & Inquiries Officer

Until 1994, walkers enjoyed an outstanding view across Morecombe Bay as they traversed the 30 metres of track north of the sea wall in front of Brown's Houses near Jenny Brown's Point from Lindeth Road's end at Silverdale to join Footpath 14. In that year, the path was deliberately obstructed, remaining so since. Walkers now have to negotiate the rocky foreshore, washed by high tides and dangerous in storms; difficult for all but the most agile and impassable for most walkers of advanced years.

Our local inspector has repeatedly sought re-opening of the path by Lancashire County Council. Unfortunately, the Definitive Map shows the path passing through the sea wall onto the beach, clearly an error. I met County Council Officers onsite, where we agreed that the Society apply for a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) to reinstate the path along its original line. The Council agreed to apply to have the route through the sea wall deleted from the map.

The application was duly drafted, supported by evidence from walkers using the path for 20+ years, and was put before the Rights of Way Committee in April 2013, with a report by the PROW manager providing exhaustive, detailed evidence of the route of the claimed path behind the sea wall. A majority of the Committee's Councillors refused to accept his recommendation for an order to amend the Definitive Map, a perverse decision. One councillor said: "I always believe common sense should prevail. You can stick as many old maps in front of me as you want and I think your report is very full but is it reasonable to walk recreationally on people's private property in this day and age?"

An appeal to the Planning Inspectorate against this refusal, prepared by Peter Rothwell, was successful and the Council was instructed to make the Order applied for. The inspector stated that it did not appear that members against the application gave consideration to the statutory tests necessary under schedule 14 of the 1981 Act. In his view, a body of evidence supported the appellant's claim that the route at issue was a long-established public right of way on foot.

In July 2013, a change in political control of the Council caused a new committee to meet to reconsider the matter. Reason and good sense prevailed. The committee accepted the Officer's report *nem con*. The DMMO was duly made on 4th December 2013. Unsurprisingly, the owners of the properties next to the path objected, so the Council could not confirm the order, referring the matter to the Planning Inspectorate to set up a public inquiry. Unfortunately, there is no time limit for this referral to take place.

In despair, I recently used the Council's complaints procedure to raise the issue, accusing the Council of inordinate delay. Within 24 hours, I received an assurance that the matter would be progressed within the near future. Since then, the process of interviewing witnesses has started.

We now await an Inquiry date, followed by the exchange of documents by the Council and those opposing the Order to reveal the basis of their case. This ensures focus on the matters in dispute. Unlike the case of the Cloud to Bridestones path, the Society will not have to pay legal costs. The case for the order will be presented by the County Council. A key witness will be one of our inspectors from West Houghton who used the path on many occasions whilst working as a school teacher taking groups of school children to see the furnace at the east end of the path.

Let's Meet our Affiliates



David Bratt, President of PNFS

Our 80 + Affiliated Societies and Groups are a highly valued component of PNFS and we realize we should do more to demonstrate the fact. We have over the years mailed them all to offer to go along to their AGMs and other member meetings to give our illustrated lecture, which gives a snapshot of our history and then focuses on a review of our current activities. No charge!! - it still remains an Affiliate benefit. I estimate our various presenters have given the lecture to 10-15 of our Affiliates over recent years. So plenty of opportunities outstanding! And a considerable number of new members have been recruited along the way.

We are now looking at further initiatives to meet and greet. One such I partook in this April was to accept a kind invitation from Kay Douglas, President of the Eccles Rambling and Social Club (ERSC) to join them on one of their regular walks.

So on April 8th, my wife Beth and I joined 30 or so kindred spirits on a glorious spring day at Anderton near Northwich.

First the formalities - I spoke briefly about PNFS (picture above) and our long and happy relationship with the Eccles Club and Chairman. Tony responded warmly and I was delighted to be presented with a very stylish metal badge commemorating their 70th Anniversary in 2016 (picture herewith).

The walk led by Kay and backmarked by John (also photographer) was a joy, in woodlands and nature reserves, including a visit to Marbury Park with earlier, some great views of the Anderton Water lift connecting the Weaver Navigation and the Trent and Mersey Canal.

It was one joyous day out with many conversations. On the breaks, we had a happy combo of Jelly Babies (ERSC) and Licorice Allsorts (PNFS) - surely a model event to follow with other Affiliates.

Many thanks Eccles.





The Struggle for Unrecorded Rights of Way - Lost Ways

David Gosling
Lost Ways Co-ordinator

As many Signpost readers will know, a deal was done with the CROW Act, 2000. The Act gave us vastly increased access to moors and hill country, for which PNFS and its predecessors have fought long and hard. The price paid was a deadline for claiming rights of way that were not already on the definitive map. In some areas, hundreds of routes have never been recorded. Claims, using historical evidence such as tithe maps, Enclosure Awards, Finance Acts records, must be made by 2026.

PNFS has a long history of fighting for rights of way. That history of the struggle to secure walkers' rights, the core raison d'être of the Society, is being extended today in the campaign to restore 'Lost Ways'. You can join this campaign by (a) identifying any routes that you think might be unrecorded rights of way, (b) gathering the necessary historical evidence to support the claim, and (c) making claims. We need as many PNFS members as possible to get involved with this campaign. If you love old maps and believe that rights of way must be saved, why not get involved? The Society will support and advise with each step in the process.

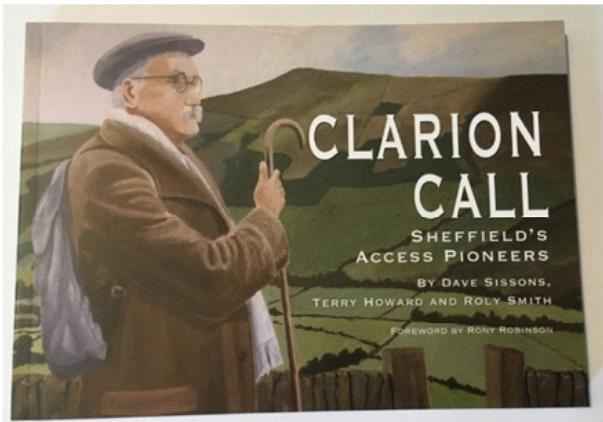
The Society now has a Policy which declares that 'We wish to ensure that, within the PNFS area, as many applications as possible for modification orders to record 'Lost Ways' are submitted to the relevant surveying authorities before the cut-off date.' It goes on to say that 'PNFS asserts that the public has a right to use routes which are historic PROWs, whether or not they have been recorded on the definitive map' and 'PNFS will strive, within its resources, to support recording of lost ways'.

The Society wants to pursue this aim in collaboration with other groups with a common interest in claiming Lost Ways - such as The Ramblers, the Open Spaces Society and, in relation to bridleways, with the British Horse Society.

A working group has been established and we are currently identifying the whereabouts of the necessary maps and historical documents. Contacts have been made with other interested groups, and as a result we are participating in the BHS Project 2026. This gives us access to a web-based database on which any volunteer can register a route they want to claim and keep track of progress made in identifying documents. This database has been developed successfully in Cornwall by Adrian Bigge, and we will be seeking to use the software in our PNFS area. Mel Bale will be administering the Derbyshire database.



As a first step we would like to hear from you to declare your interest. We will then keep you informed on how to pursue claims for Lost Ways. Please send an email to the Society or directly to David Gosling at this email address dwg@davidgosling.net.



Clarion Call

Mel Bale

Membership Secretary & Webmaster

The recent publication of 'Clarion Call' by Dave Sissons, Terry Howard and Roly Smith is a very timely and appropriate reminder of how hard-fought access to the moorlands around Sheffield has been. The book tells the story of Sheffield's access pioneers and focuses chiefly on the early history of the Sheffield Clarion Ramblers (SCR), founded in 1900 by G.H.B. Ward and led by him until his death in 1957. In doing so it draws on information contained in the small but highly detailed SCR handbooks which will be familiar to many of our members. The book also contains a wealth of photographs, many published for the first time, which provide a fascinating insight into the activities of the Clarion Ramblers.

This article is not a review of the book, although I do highly recommend it. My aim is to praise the efforts and writing of its three authors. Roly Smith should need no introduction; he has authored over 80 books on walking and the countryside and contributed an article titled 'Wildness and Wet' to Signpost 52. The other two authors will hopefully forgive me if I say that they have slightly lower writing profiles, however their contributions to the book show deep understanding of the subject.

Dave Sissons is the book's main author and is described by Roly Smith as an expert on the life and work of Ward. Dave is a PNFS member and a Footpath Inspector for 7 parishes in the Peak District. He had a long history of involvement with the Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorland (SCAM) which dates back to 1990. It is no coincidence that he began an MA dissertation on GHB Ward in the same year. The majority of the book is written by Dave and demonstrates not only his in-depth knowledge of the Clarion Ramblers and GHB Ward, but also his passion for the moorlands that they explored. He has also identified the locations of many of the archive photographs that feature prominently in the book.

Terry Howard contributes the final two pieces to Clarion Call, 'The Spirit of Kinder' and 'The Legacy of Bert Ward'. Terry's involvement with SCAM predates Dave's; he was a founding member in 1982 and subsequently became its Access Secretary. His passion for moorland walking originated from his earlier membership of the Woodcraft Folk, the co-operative youth organisation which promoted the benefits of the outdoors and being close to nature. Writing about why access to moorland is so important, he has said in the past that it enables us to enjoy our cultural heritage and wildlife as well as providing an opportunity for quiet contemplation and reflection.

All three authors have written passionately about an important part of the campaign to widen access to our wild spaces. They, and the subjects of this book, played a significant role in bringing about the access changes that are enshrined in the CROW Act (2000). Open access to large parts of the countryside was a long time coming and was hard won. We must never forget the people who campaigned for the law to be changed. This book is a fitting tribute to a small band of them.

THE SOCIETY REACHES 120 YEARS OF AGE



As David Bratt said in his welcome speech at the start of the celebrations at Hayfield on 27th May, "It is somewhat quirky to celebrate your 120th anniversary, but then the Society has always had a reputation for quirkiness".

Notwithstanding our quirky nature, the day was a resounding success, with a variety of "performers", displays and activities to fill the proceedings. During his speech, David Hurrell, together with the Chair of Hayfield Civic Trust, Sheila Booth, unveiled the plaque to commemorate our 120th Anniversary. The Civic Trust has generously donated half the cost of making and installing the plaque. It will shortly be installed on the Snake Path at Hayfield (SK 042 871, in the field above Hayfield that also contains 'Twenty Trees' a well-known local landmark). The Path is of course the scene of our first major victory in 1897, to keep it open for posterity. The Mayor of High Peak, Matt Stone, was also warmly welcomed to the event by David, and enjoyed David's speech, as well as subsequent ones by Hayfield Kinder Trespass Group, Moors for the Future and the National Trust. Prior to Matt's arrival, we also had a presentation from Julie Gough, from Friends of the Peak District, about the new Peak District Boundary Walk, and its launch on 17th June.

A folk duo from Salford, Mather Robinson, gave us a half hour of excellent music, finishing up with a rousing rendition of 'The Manchester Rambler'. Audience participation was rife during this.

On Sunday, two walks set off from the Royal Hotel in Hayfield, after a welcoming speech from David Bratt. A total of 85 people walked either a short 4 mile route or a longer 7 mile route (the latter featuring the stiff uphill struggle of William Clough!). Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy this, and also the get-together afterwards back at Hayfield, where Kinder Blue, a local band featuring one of PNFS's own, Ian MacKenzie, performed a marvellous, relaxing jazz set in the afternoon sun bathing the Hayfield Cricket Club.

There were so many people that contributed time and effort to making the celebrations a success that it is impossible to mention everyone. Suffice it to say that there was a true coming-together of both PNFS and non-PNFS organisations and individuals. I feel sure that many relationships and friendships will have been made or re-inforced as a result.

A photo montage of the events over the weekend is featured on the next two pages



PNFS
120th Anniversary
May 2017





A Poem for the 120th Anniversary Celebrations

Helen Mort

When I was researching this poem, I was very daunted by the challenge of writing about Kinder because I was all too aware that I was following in the footsteps of the great Peter Riley, a poet I admire so much. His pamphlet 'The Ascent of Kinder Scout' is a fine achievement. As I thought about what I might write, I was interested to learn that 'trespass' is one of those words in English which doesn't really have an exact synonym. None of the synonyms the dictionary suggests are quite right because words like 'intrude' or 'encroach' don't capture the sense of movement, or the sense of freedom and reclamation. I realised that thinking of the Kinder Trespass had changed my understanding of the word 'trespass' itself, the things I associate with trespassing. I decided to write something inspired by a day I had walking on Kinder in January 2016 in deep snow when I wondered if I belonged in the landscape. The layout of the poem on the page is supposed to reflect a kind of breathlessness. I hope you like it.

The Trespassers

A poem written for the commemoration of the Kinder Trespass of 1932

We come from Hayfield breathless in a spindrift
of silence. January, snow's sudden trespass on the hill
by which I mean snow claiming back its right
to cleave to stone and path and heather

snow waking the air with pins-and-needles,
puffing out a greeting as snow meets sky –

two walkers on a ridge, dressed in the same
pale overcoats. I mean snow swarming

over ground made mild by autumn rain and us
alone and trudging on by which I mean

us trespassing through snow, our single route
how trespass knows no synonym

me with a fawn whippet in my arms
watching as you sink through powder to your hip

us clawing a way out, us standing
by the fence line drinking ginger tea that pause

before we turn back for the town, the car
to trespass trespass through our own lives again.

Walking the Road to Recovery

Anne Greenwood

I am writing this as I recuperate from a major operation and, whilst rest is vital, the hospital physiotherapist's words to me were "Walking is the best medicine". So I started by hobbling up and down the ward, then around my home, and now, 10 days later, I'm enjoying fresh air and admiring local gardens as I gradually build up the length and frequency of my daily walks. OK, they're really more stiff strolls at the moment, but at least the slow pace allows me to appreciate the beautiful spring flowers everywhere - it's a lovely time of year to be convalescing.

I've been taking minutes at PNFS Committee meetings for many years now, so it felt strange to miss last month's meeting of the managing committee. It occurred to me that I get a behind-the-scenes view of the Society from a unique vantage point which the members might find interesting, so I decided to share some observations from my experience of taking minutes for PNFS. The diverse backgrounds of the men and women who volunteer to help run the Society are fascinating. Some have worked in PRoW Departments prior to retirement, so are ideally placed to communicate with Local Authorities. Others, who studied law or worked in legal fields, thoroughly enjoy using complex case law to champion walkers' rights. Still others prefer practical outdoor tasks like cleaning and freshening the Society's signposts with a new coat of paint.

Those with IT expertise have been especially busy recently, looking for improved ways to monitor and manage our footpaths. A new online database created by the Society's volunteers should greatly help Footpath Inspectors. An impressive website to showcase the Society has also been developed by Members. The Treasurer constantly seeks to make best use of the charity's funds, whilst the Membership Secretary and Publicity Officer look for new members and collect subscriptions to fund the Society's activities. The Secretary manages a huge admin workload. Meanwhile, the hardworking multi-tasking Chairman has the responsibility of overseeing the smooth running of all of the above!

So the managing team has a wide spectrum of interests and skills but the common denominator, the golden thread binding the team together, is a passion for the Society's goal of protecting our valuable network of public footpaths for the enjoyment of all who walk on them.

Sometimes, the mood of meetings is marked by frustration, when enthusiastic efforts to rectify path problems are not responded to quickly by Councils whose staff and budgets have suffered severe cuts. But then there is the elation when areas are opened up for walkers to enjoy by, for example, something as simple as a footbridge being installed as a memorial structure from a member's legacy donation, over quagmire which was preventing access.

I hope this sneak peep through the window with the minute-taker into the many aspects involved in running PNFS has given members a sense of pride in their managing team, because they are a very sincere and friendly bunch and deserve recognition for all their hard work and efforts. After all, as keen walkers themselves, I'm sure they'd rather be outdoors walking the footpaths instead of sitting around a table in Taylor House discussing the organisational side of running the charity.

Well, I've been sitting here long enough writing this article. It's time for me to drag this stiff, achy body out walking again on the road to recovery from my op.



The photo shows flowers sent by PNFS to Anne during her hospital stay, as a mark of gratitude for all her hard work for the Society over the years, and to wish her a speedy recovery.

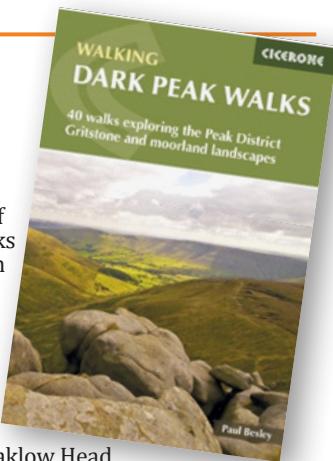
Book Review:

Dark Peak Walks by Paul Besley (Cicerone £12.95)

Phil Lally

Paul Besley clearly knows this area of the Peak District well. He is a volunteer Ranger for the Peak District National Park and a member of Woodhead Mountain Rescue. I have always found Cicerone guidebooks to be well produced with excellent introductions to the area in question and containing detailed descriptions of well-chosen walks. This new guide is no exception. The guide presents route descriptions and 1:50,000 OS mapping for 35 half and full day walks. In addition, route summaries are provided for 5 longer walks of between 25km and 45km, including the classic circuit of the Kinder Scout skyline. I did the walk from Old Glossop to Bleaklow Head with a couple of friends to test out the guide, as this was a new route to me. It was an interesting walk taking in Cock Hill, Clough Edge, Torside Clough, Bleaklow Head, Wain Stones, Hern Stones, the B29 aircraft wreck, Higher Shelf Stones, and James's Thorn. The route information was clear, with helpful compass directions where necessary. As the author says, it is always useful to carry the OS Explorer Dark Peak Map OS1 with you when walking in this part of the world. If you have a GPS enabled device to navigate, GPX files are available for free download via a link in the book.

My previous Cicerone guide to this area was 'High Peak Walks' by Mark Richards, first published in 1982. This was a Wainwright-style book, with hand-drawn maps and illustrations and thus had lots of detail that the new book lacks. However, the new guide has almost twice as many walks in about the same number of pages and, as I've indicated, contains sufficient detail to find one's way – the key requirement of any guidebook. The new book also has the advantage of being completely up-to-date in terms of route finding and promises to provide many more pleasurable days if the Bleaklow walk is anything to go by. I look forward to taking it with me on future excursions in the Dark Peak.



My Favourite Café

John Harker



I came across a nice little café at a place called Wood Row, Mickletown. It is in the Aire valley between Leeds & Castleford. Great bird spotting country, with well-known sites such as Fairburn Ings, Methley Mires, Lowther Lakes, St. Aidan's Country Park, Mickletown Ings & Skelton Lakes. Good walking & mountain biking country too.

The café is:
riversMEET,
 102 Leeds Road,
 Methley, Leeds LS26 9EP.
 The website is: <https://www.riversmeetcraftcafe.co.uk>
 The phone no. is 01977 279729.
 Email: riversmeet.methley@gmail.com.

It is clearly a former public house converted to a café/craft centre, where people can do various things craft-wise. It also has links to local bird-spotting courses & bird photography courses. I can recommend the café. It was busy, a good sign on a midweek lunch time. The service was excellent, as was the scone & jam I had.



Signpost Report

January-May 2017

David Morton

So far this year we have:

- Added a further 14 signposts giving a total of 475
- Fixed 2 memorial plaques to the new Bridge 10 over Shelf Brook in memory of David Frith and Edwin Ambler, plus one on S544 & S545, see below, and on S524 near Weag's Bridge, Manifold Way, in memory of Joyce Head.
- Had S085 (Jacob's Ladder) and S335 (Delamere - paint fault) refurbished by Stockport Powder Coating.
- Added S549 at Mottram Cemetery in memory of David Frith; S550 at Marple Golf Club; and S551 near Bronte Falls, Haworth to the pipeline.
- Fabricated and unveiled (at the 120th anniversary celebrations) a memorial plaque of the 120th anniversary of the re-opening of the Snake Path via William Clough. It will be installed on the path by the second kissing gate up from Hayfield, near Twenty Trees.
- Inspected all signposts within the last four years. Reports from you on outlying signs are always welcome.

Installed:

S536 SK 01298 89675, 300m N of Rowarth on DE-NEM FPs 9/18/19,
replacing an old New Mills Ramblers Association fingerpost in memory of Norman Ings.

S537 SD 67310 21005 at Stepback Brook, Tockholes BWs 72 and 151

S538 SD 66258 19946 at Hollinshead Hall ruin, Tockholes FPs 177/8//9

S540 SK 04498 55605 at Onecote Grange Farm, Onecote FPs 22 and 23

S541 SK 04549 55471 at Onecote Grange Farm, Onecote, FPs 22 and 2

S542 SK 23588 73580, 1km NE of Hassop on DE-HAP FP10 (diverted)

S543 SK 23132 73270, 1.5km NE of Hassop on DE-HAP FP10 (diverted)

S544 SJ 83287 81352, NW corner of Lindow Common, in memory of Elaine Hall of Altringham RA

S545 GR SJ 98290 98182 on Stalybridge FPs 74, 95, 106 & BWs 68, 90 in memory of Brian Godwin and Betty Bowden of Ashton-under-Lyne & District Walking Club

S547 GR SK 02377 90800 Knarrs Nook Farm, Chun, on New Mills FPs 30 and 31

S548 GR SK 02405 90650 Knarrs Nook Farm, Chun, on New Mills FP 30

S523, 528 and 546 at Cuckoo Way, Shireoaks near Worksop – see website for details

Maintenance

I am very sad to report that even as the weather has warmed up, serious illness has forced Mike Hoare to lay down his paintbrush. His pal Peter has repainted S370 and S371 in the Wirral, S229 and S230 at Ollerton, New Mills, and S2 and S29 near the Shooting Cabin on the Snake Path. Phone me at 0161 283 7824, if you have any questions, or wish to "adopt" any of signs 506, 507, 510, 514, 517, 518, 521/2/5/6/9, 537/8, 540/1/2/3/7/8. Their locations are shown above or, in the case of existing signs, on the Signpost Gallery of our website (www.peakandnorthern.org.uk/signposts/where-they-are.htm), together with photos and maps.

Signposts facing North, or under trees, often need a clean at this time of year, so please assist with water and a nail brush.

Longer Walks

David Bratt

Wednesday July 26th

Leader: Ken Brockway (01949 843 572)
Congleton circular using part of The Great English Walk
12 mls, 1500 ft, inc The Cloud & the PNFS path
Walk starts Congleton Station 10:30
Manchester Piccadilly 09:46

Wednesday August 30th

Leader: Dave Rigby (01484 846412)
Linear walk Slaithwaite to Huddersfield.
10 miles undulating (not canal route)
09:57 M'chr Victoria (or 09:41 M'chr Piccadilly, change Stalybridge for 10:12)
Walk starts Slaithwaite stn 10:35



Wednesday November 29th

Leader Ian Salvage (01663 746979)
Edale to Chinley via Rushup Edge
10 miles, 1500 ft ascent
Walk starts Edale Station 11:35
Manchester Piccadilly 10:49



Short Walks

John Fisher



Wednesday July 12th

Leader: John Fisher (01625 439298)
Chapel-en-le-Frith to Whaley Bridge
6 miles, hilly
Train from Manchester Piccadilly 09:49
Walk starts Chapel-en-le-Frith station 10:40

Wednesday August 9th

Leader: John Harker (07929 051978)
Grindleford to Bamford, to be confirmed
Train from Manchester Piccadilly 10:49
Walk starts Grindleford station 11:50

Wednesday September 13th

No Walk planned to date
Any volunteer to lead, please contact John Fisher as above, or at johnfisher560@btinternet.com

Wednesday October 11th

Leader: Martin Riley (01706 848408)
Train from Manchester Victoria 09:56
Meet Rochdale station 10:15, for bus 444 to Norden, where walk starts.

Wednesday November 8th

Leader: Dave Rigby (01484 846412)
Slaithwaite to Holmfirth, 7 miles
Train from Manchester Victoria 09:57 (book Huddersfield return), or Huddersfield 10:15
Walk starts Slaithwaite station 10:35

Wednesday December 13th

Leader: John Fisher (01625 439298)
Glossop circular, 7 miles
Train from Manchester Piccadilly 10:18
Walk starts Glossop station 10:50

Miles Without Stiles – The Longdendale Valley

Paul Easthope, Treasurer



You can walk up to 16 miles, from Hadfield station to the head of the Longdendale valley, without encountering a single stile. The credit for this goes to United Utilities and the Trans-Pennine National Trail authority. After a while, you get used to the pylons in the valley and concentrate on the vista unfolding before you.

Turn R from the station; follow the road to a RH bend (start of the Longdendale trail, previously the old railway line to Sheffield). Carry on 200 yards; take the 1st path on the L behind houses for 200 yards. Head 45 degrees N. Follow trods across playing fields to the road at the end of terraced houses. Turn L down the road to a public footpath on the R. After a few yards, take the gate on the R to Bottoms Reservoir. Turn L at the gate at the bottom; bear R across the dam; take the wide hard-core path up towards gates on the R (concessionary paths; most not shown on the map). Just before the gates, take the path down between trees (easily missed), over a footbridge across the drain and turn L, following the drain. At the building, turn R, then immediate L following the path through the trees in an E direction.

At the tarmac lane, turn R; follow the wide lane through the gates to the dam at Rhodeswood Reservoir. Turn L for a few yards, then R through the new galvanised gate. Follow the track to the lane at Torside Dam. Cross the lane; follow the track in front for 200 yards to the Pennine Way. Take the Pennine Way for 1/4 mile through trees. At a gate (Pennine Way goes up the road), turn R through another gate into Tinsel Wood. Follow the path by the reservoir to the car park at Crowden. Cross the A628 with care.

Note:

<i>R</i> = Right	<i>L</i> = Left,
<i>RH</i> = Right-Hand	<i>LH</i> = Left-Hand
<i>N</i> = North	<i>E</i> = East
<i>NNE</i> = North-North-East,	

Pass the car park entrance on L; follow the lane a short distance to the T-junction. Go through the gate, take the RH path through trees behind cottages that used to be the old Youth Hostel. At the next gate, turn R; follow the Northern Horse Trail running parallel with the A628 to the road below the Woodhead Dam. Follow the lane to the small Chapel. You are now back on a public footpath. Follow the somewhat boggy and indistinct Trail down towards the A628. Just before the road, and at the end of the public bridleway, the route goes uphill again (a little indistinct in places).

Pass a recently felled wood on your right. Go through the gate, take the LH track in a NNE direction down to the A6024, cross & head downhill to the wide footbridge. Turn R heading towards the A628 in front of you at the nine-arched bridge. Go up the lane ahead that becomes a grassy bridleway. Continue for 1.25 miles uphill to cross Audenshaw Clough, then take the trod that cuts the corner to the Trans Pennine trail. If you miss it, carry on up to the signpost joining the Trans Pennine trail. Turn R and follow the trail down to the A628. Take care in crossing this very busy road. The route zig-zags down to the tunnel entrance. Follow the Trans-Pennine Trail 6.5 miles back to Hadfield.

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Mel Bale,
Membership Secretary



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