

SIGNPOST

Newsletter of the
Peak and Northern Footpaths Society



John Harker took these 'Before' and 'After' photos, showing Sheffield footpath 388, which runs along Blackburn Brook near Sheffield and which became distinctly unpleasant after rain. Lobbying of Sheffield Council by PNFS has resulted in a path that ramblers & local residents can walk along without needing wellies.



Chairman's Piece

David Hurrell, Chairman

Spring this year has been the usual mixture of warm and cold days, before the weather can decide that summer is not too far away. However, this year has seen some of the most marked contrasts that I can remember. Whatever the weather, we must accept and make the most of what is being given to us to enjoy. Spring can be a wonderful time with all the contrasts that new growth and flowers can bring. Summer will soon be with us, even though not everyone wishes for those warm dry days, when an invigorating walk can be something of an effort in the lunch time sunshine.

Peak & Northern Footpaths Society now has a few more powers to help with the work of keeping footpaths open and in good order for public use. The Managing Committee will carefully look at all items being considered, evaluating cost and value. Only items that are beneficial for the walking public will be taken forward and careful control will be kept on costs. We shall be establishing a sub-committee to look at schemes that have been put forward, to see if they are suitable for further investigation, and to submit these to the Trustees for their approval. We shall keep you informed of the schemes we are looking at and approving.

The Highway Authority must agree to take responsibility for the maintenance of any agreed structures.

The work that the Society has always done will go on as before, with action being taken against Local Authorities who do not keep paths in good order.

To stay still would be a recipe for the Society to slip backwards, and not take account of changes in the way that Local Authorities are changing in their approach to Public Services.

Our current Constitution gives each of us the right to obtain the name and address of each PNFS member for communications purposes.

Peak & Northern Footpaths Society takes seriously the confidentiality of its members, and no information is ever passed to other organisations other than what is required by law. With the current changes to legislation under the Data Privacy Law, from 25th May 2018, we shall not be allowed to make available name and addresses for the information of other members. Care will need to be taken about how, for instance, Footpath Inspector information is stored and handled, because there needs to be effective communications within the Society.



This will mean that item 6(4) of the Constitution will read; 'The Managing Committee must keep a register of names and addresses of the members', the latter part of the sentence previously in existence no longer being applicable.

The Society is now conducting a further trial on the digitisation of historical records kept at Taylor House. David Gosling has done a large amount of work on this project, and a sample of Cheshire East data has now been collected for scanning. Great care is needed to ensure that the records are held in such a way as to provide easy access, allowing anyone to check what has happened in the past.



Ginnels and Snickets



*- and lots
more besides*

Caro Millington
PNFS Member

When I saw the postcard in the Autumn Signpost featuring Belper jitties and asking if anyone knew other regional names for alleys, I realised I could help answer the question. Why? It started a few years ago when I was giving a friend some directions. 'And then you take the snicket...', I told her. She looked blank. I explained that I meant an alleyway. 'You mean a ginnel', she insisted. This conversation started my search for more names, and last year I published a little book with my discoveries and the photographs I had taken around the country, and abroad. My snicket, I found, is used in Yorkshire and the North West. This was baffling, since I am a Londoner, but my mother spent the war years in Lincolnshire - could she have picked up the word in Grantham and passed it on to me? My friend's ginnel is used in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire - as are the variants gennels, jennals, and jennas - and although she is another Londoner this made sense, as her family spent some time in Leeds.

I started asking friends across the country for the words they used. From Belfast came back lanes and entries; from Scotland closes (or closies), vennels and pends. As a regular visitor to Orkney I was already familiar with the wynds I'd walked down there. And I realised that the chares of Durham and Newcastle sound remarkably similar to the chures (or chewars or tchures) of Oxfordshire, 250 miles away.

The size of these alleys differs a lot, but common to them all is an absence of vehicles, other than the occasional bicycle, and the irresistible desire they inspire in me to find out where they are leading.

On a visit to the tiny Ile de Sein in Brittany I discovered a maze of rouelles, built to provide protection from the fierce west winds. And if, like me, you have ever got lost in Venice you will have scuttled down calle after calle, baffled by the height of their surrounding walls, or down a passageway under a building - that one is called a sортопорто. One day I would love to visit and wander down the hutongs of Beijing and the koochehs of Iran. Before then, however, I'm sure there'll be a reason to experience the cunneries of Kirk Langley, the twitchells of Derbyshire (in Sussex they become twittens), the ten foots of Hull, the lanes of Brighton and the scores of Lowestoft, as well as snickleways on both sides of the Pennines.

It's a voyage of discovery which I look forward to continuing. For more information about my book Ginnels and Snickets please email me: c_millington@yahoo.com (there is another artist's book called Promising Paths - pictures and words about footpaths; but that's another story!)

More art on
www.caromillingtonart.com



Shining a Light on another PNFS-Affiliated Group - Bradford CHA



Ray Wilkes, Bradford CHA and PNFS Member

Our walking group Bradford CHA, founded in 1903, welcomes people to come on our public transport and coach rambles. In many walking clubs, car ownership is essential but not in our club. We have coach rambles all over Northern England and we have club weekends even further afield.

We have public transport walks every Saturday and coach rambles every Sunday. Recently, we have had club weekends in North Wales, the Lake District, Hadrian's Wall and the East Coast.

Every so often we have a 'project' where we complete a long distance path over a series of day trips, weekends and weeks. We have walked the Pennine Way, Cleveland Way, Yorkshire Wolds Way, Wainwright's Coast to Coast and the Speyside Way in this manner. To celebrate the Millennium we devised a walk from Bradford City Hall to the Millennium Dome and this was an extraordinary experience, taking us through miles of wonderful countryside which we would never have considered visiting. In 2003 it was our Centenary so we walked from City Hall to Edinburgh. This was a fine walk but was more familiar terrain so not quite so exciting.

In between these two events we had to endure the 'Foot and Mouth' outbreak, something which hit the finances of our weekly club coach very hard and we had a struggle to keep this aspect of our activities viable. Like many walking clubs and outdoor businesses, we are still not as strong now as we were before this now distant event.

We have a website www.bradfordwalking.org and we also have a Facebook page and Meet-up site so we are easy to access. Also, in January of this year, we were featured in the 'Telegraph and Argus' newspaper - http://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/features/news_behind/15905530.Walking_can_improve_health_and_lift_spirits/

About two years ago, one of our long time members, Patrick Swithinbank, who had been a very active member and walk leader, sadly died. He left us a legacy and we decided to spend this on three PNFS footpath signs, one to commemorate past members and another two to publicise our club as well as PNFS.





Our Thanks to Another Major Benefactor of the Society

Paul Easthope, Treasurer and Trustee

We are very grateful for the recent significant legacy of £74,000 to the Society from the estate of Audrey Oakes. Elizabeth Palmer, whose mother was a very close friend of Audrey's, writes:

**Audrey Eloise Mayer Oakes
1932 - 2016**

Audrey Oakes was born in Biddulph, Staffordshire. Her father Jabez qualified as a pharmacist after completing his army service in World War 1. He had the chemist's shop in Biddulph for nearly thirty years: everyone knew Jabez Oakes.

Audrey followed in her father's footsteps and studied pharmacy at Nottingham University. She spent two years in the USA, as a pharmaceutical research assistant at Yale University. She worked in the NHS as a hospital pharmacist, eventually as deputy chief pharmacist at the London Hospital in the 1960s. In 1969, Audrey joined ICI and moved to Wilmslow. She worked on anaesthetics for the remainder of her career.

Audrey had many friends and many interests. She enjoyed walking, stamp-collecting and history and she travelled widely. She gave regularly to charity throughout her life, and her name may already be familiar to the beneficiaries in her will. She decided many years ago that she would leave most of her estate to charity. The charities that she included in her will reflect her many interests and her lifelong commitment to medical services. Even her body was bequeathed to medical science.

Audrey had no immediate family, but my mother Dorothy was her life-long closest friend. They grew up together in Biddulph, and went to school together. Audrey was my godmother and it has been my privilege to act as her executor and to carry out her wishes. I am sure that her bequests will be of great benefit to the charities she has always supported.

Walking a Madeiran Levada?

John Harker, James Petts & Oliver Taylor

No - the three of us walking Wath-upon-Dearne footpath no 2 in Rotherham (see photos). People were obviously shorter back then, judging by the head room available in the tunnel.

The tunnel takes the footpath through and under a former aqueduct, which carried the Dearne & Dove Canal over the public footpath and the adjacent Brook Dike, which runs through an adjacent tunnel seen on the left in the second photo. The Dearne & Dove Canal was built in the 1790s to link the Sheffield & South Yorkshire Navigation with the Barnsley Canal, which in turn linked to the Aire & Calder Navigation near Wakefield.

Any other unusual locations for public rights of way out there?



Photos: Top - J. Petts, Bottom - O. Taylor

Manchester Histories Festival (MHF), 10 June 2018.

David Bratt, President

Having had good experiences in 2012/2014/2016 in terms of new membership recruitment, we ventured forth on Sunday 10 June to give MHF another go. The team comprised but three - my wife Beth, Gavin Miller and myself.

The outlook was not promising as this year we were not in the spacious Manchester Town Hall (under massive renovation), but instead in the cramped Central Library. And instead of the usual 6 hours stint, this part of the Festival was limited to 4 hours. Our stall was off the beaten track and in something of a cubbyhole, but with a gangway running past. Not surprisingly, our estimates of new member sign-ups ranged from but 6 to a giddy 12.

At 12 noon the Festival opened to the public and we barely saw a soul until 12:45, prompting mutterings that it was all down to Brexit!!.

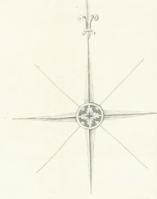
By now, the prospect of even 6 new members seemed the stuff of dreams. Then a burst of interest and 3 new members resulted.

By 16:00, we had amassed 19 new and very welcome members, not to mention the pleasure of meeting some existing members calling in. We gained 2 members from the nearby Salford and Manchester Ramblers stall and separately, in a quid pro quo (actually 2 quid), I somehow joined the Manchester and Stockport Canal Society!!!.

All in all, a great outcome, proving that what our Society is about does resonate with the walking fraternity.



The England Coast Path – Work-in-Progress



As many of you may know already, the England Coast Path is being developed as a new long-distance trail. It should deliver improved public access to all of England's coastline (a similar initiative is being undertaken for Wales). Natural England is hoping to complete work on the trail in 2020.

The areas of coastline that fall within Peak and Northern's direct remit are in the counties of Lancashire and Merseyside, where proposals are in development by Natural England. However, the whole of the Coastal Path may have interest to anyone keen on walking. And not too far away from PNFS's area, John Harker has spotted that proposals have recently been published for part of the North-East section of the Trail (Easington to Filey Brigg). If you are interested in finding out more about this fascinating project, a good starting point is the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-improving-public-access-to-the-coast>.

To view the proposal for the Easington to Filey Brigg section, go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-easington-to-filey-brigg>



Funding for New Footbridge Handed Over

Last October a small ceremony was held at a new footbridge and boardwalk on Gunthorpe & Ingbirchworth FP2, at which our Chairman handed over a cheque for £751 to Barnsley Council to fund the cost of the work.

The need for a bridge was first suggested by John Harker in early 2014. The footpath crossed Tanyard Brook which had been choked with stones put down as stepping stones. This led to an area of boggy ground for a few metres each side of the brook, which was made worse by livestock gathering there to drink. Just to the north of the stream was a stone wall with a stile in poor condition, which added to the difficulties for walkers using the path.

The Society made an offer of funding and Sarah Ford, the Council's Principal PROW Officer, started negotiations with the landowners. The original design was for a timber bridge with handrails but the landowners were not happy and thought the rails would be used as "rubbing posts" by the livestock, so helping the ground to be churned up again. Eventually, a stone clapper bridge with an adjoining boardwalk was agreed upon.

Barnsley Council's staff dug out and cleared the stream bed, built abutments and manoeuvred the stone slab into position, as well as constructing the boardwalk adjacent to the bridge. The Council replaced the previous stile with stone steps to deal with the height difference, a gap in the wall and a wicket gate. The land to the north of the wall is in Kirklees Council's area and they had previously improved the waymarking of Denby footpaths 72 / 30, making the line of the path clearer.

Following the ceremony, an article about the bridge appeared in the Barnsley Chronicle giving some useful publicity to the Society.

Walkers can now enjoy a more pleasing walk between Ingbirchworth and Upper Denby.

Bob Proctor, Bridge Assessor

The Te Deum Stone

**John Harker,
Area Officer**



The Te Deum Stone is an historic landmark in Calderdale. The inscription on the stone says: "Te Deum Laudamus". If you remember your Latin from school you will know it means "We praise thee, O Lord". It stands at grid reference SD9698.2305 on Hebden Royd Footpath 076 above Withens Clough Reservoir, not far from Stoodley Pike. It is on the watershed between the Calder valley and Cragg Vale.

By repute, it is a boundary stone and possibly a Coffin Stone on a former Coffin or Corpse Road. Such routes connected outlying villages & farms with a consecrated burial ground. In a huge moorland area like this, it was an onerous task to carry someone for many miles in often bad weather. The stone, originally taller, would have been used to rest the dead on while the bearers paused for breath and prayers were said for the deceased.

TE
DEUM
LAUDAMUS



Glazebrook footpath No 10 Definitive Map Modification Order

Jenny & David attended a public inquiry into the above in December 2017. The Order was made by Warrington Borough Council in July 2017, to modify the definitive statement & map for the area by adding the footpath. It could not be confirmed by the Council due to receipt of objections and was referred via the Secretary of State to the Planning inspectorate to be determined at a public inquiry.

The purpose of the inquiry is to establish if the requirements for presumed statutory dedication, as per s31 Highways Act 1980, are met. Thus proving, on a balance of probabilities, that the public have used the claimed route as of right (i.e. without secrecy, permission or force) and without interruption for a full 20 years.

Where these requirements are not met, the inquiry may examine the matter from a common law perspective and apply a different test. For example, whether, during any relevant period, there was express or implied dedication by the owner(s) of the land in question (having the capacity to dedicate a public right of way) and whether there is evidence of acceptance of the claimed right by the public.



The full length of the claimed footpath had originally been included on the draft definitive map in the early 1950's. The footpath leads to and from Glazebrook Station, passing over land owned by a Railway Company at the time. The British Transport Commission objected to its inclusion on the map on the basis that s57 of the British Transport Commission Act 1947 prohibited the acquisition of any rights of way over land owned by the Railway. It was decided to remove the section across railway-owned land at a subsequent public hearing in March 1957. This was despite the protestations from the local parish council, supported by historical map evidence, as to its long use as a footpath. This decision resulted in the footpath being recorded on the definitive map as ending in a cul-de-sac. In December 1986 the land owned by the Railway was sold to a private individual and continues to be in private ownership. This change to private ownership made the land capable of dedication and the public can acquire rights of way over it. This date played a material part in the Inspector's assessment of user evidence at the inquiry. Any user evidence up to the sale in 1986, although useful historical evidence, could not be considered for the purposes of meeting the statutory test.

The evidence given by supporters and objectors proved insufficient to show, on the balance of probability, that a public footpath subsists over the Order route, under the terms of Section 31 of the 1980 Act. However, the evidence was sufficient, on a balance of probability, to show that, at common law, dedication of a public right of way along the Order route is implied, primarily by the inaction of the landowner between late 1986 and mid-2006, and that, despite the limited number of people providing evidence of their use, this is sufficient to demonstrate acceptance of the way by the public.

David Bratt has since officially confirmed with the Authority that the path is open (see picture left), but that what it needs now is some footfall – which is where all of you can play a part.

Jenny Allen & David Bratt

An enthusiastic volunteer passes on the Baton – June Mabon

**David Gosling,
Footpath Inspection Co-ordinator and Trustee**

I knew about June Mabon's work on Inspectors' Badges, but I also suspected that she had been active in various other roles over the years. I asked her to write up her history with the Society, which she duly did – and I now understand the extent of her work and how important she has been to the Society.

After reading June's account, David Hurrell commented: "I had gathered that June had a number of posts in PNFS, but I had no idea she had been so involved over such a long period of time. I will mention June's retirement at the AGM, and offer thanks for all the work she has done." Now read on as June recounts her involvement in the Society.

Following the death of General Secretary Derek Taylor in February 2000, I took over that role at the invitation of President Leslie Meadowcroft and the other Trustees. By August 2000, the Trustees had concluded that Derek Taylor's shoes were too big for one person to fill and the General Secretary role was dismantled, with individual tasks being re-allocated amongst Trustees and others. I became Minutes Secretary and, sensing the need to introduce automation to PNFS, was part of a small working group which developed the PNFS website and the email address and faults databases. A big stride forward for PNFS at that time.

The sudden death in 2002 of President Leslie Meadowcroft, PNFS's driving force at the time, brought more re-organisations and I relinquished the Minutes Secretary role, moving closer to the Footpath Inspector (FP) work of the Society. Many long-serving FP Inspectors were retiring and it was decided to help new and established FP Inspectors by giving them a Society identity. An ID badge was issued as a sort of "badge of office". In creating the clip-on laminated ID badge with the photograph of the FP Inspector, I was greatly helped by my husband Ian. There was also some "tidying up" of Inspector areas, as early retirees from day jobs started joining the Inspection team with their own transport and a familiarity with managing the interface with figures in authority such as local highway councils.



Martin Riley, David Bratt and June Mabon lead the trek through rubbish-strewn Castleshaw Farmyard.
Photo reproduced by kind permission of the Oldham Evening Chronicle

*Photo reproduced from
Signpost No 20 (April 2006)*

Somehow, from my work producing FP Inspector badges, came the task of managing the production of the Annual Report and Accounts. PNFS had always had an enviable track record of promoting and preserving rights of way and the Annual Report was a way of bringing together the work of the team at Taylor House and the much larger team out in the field, so some judicious juggling was needed to incorporate a cross section of reports while still giving an appropriately-sized report.

The Report task was later devolved in 2004 as part of the ongoing development of the Society. By now the Society's membership was nudging four figures and the Trustees felt it time we promoted the work of the Society in the media. I was happy to organise events where we were joined by local dignitaries which resulted in photographs and column inches of publicity in the local press. The Society's black and white publicity / recruitment leaflet was next in line for an update, and, together with four others, in December 2005, we created a full colour version with a picture of Monsal Head on the front fold. I have enjoyed all my various tasks at PNFS. I am a proud supporter of the aims of the Society, love to see the PNFS signposts pointing the way in so many locations (our "silent ambassadors", as one Chairman called them) and have enjoyed serving the Society for 18 years through the terms of seven Chairmen. Time now to let my successors carry the baton of ID badge production for the continuing success of our great Society. I will sit back and enjoy simply being a PNFS member.

Walking the Dales Way

- a new edition of an old favourite

Dr Terry Marsh

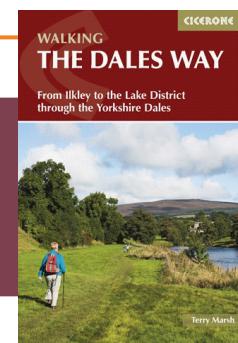
Dr Terry Marsh has recently written a new edition of 'Walking the Dales Way' (published Apr 2018 by Cicerone, ISBN 9781852849436), covering this enchanting route through the Yorkshire Dales. The route features rivers great and small running through spectacular limestone scenery and rolling farmland, across moorland and through woodland and meadows. Characterful towns and villages, ancient monuments, monastic ruins, and historic roads, bridges and churches are all part of the rich tapestry of the region. The 79-mile Dales Way passes through the heart of North Yorkshire and celebrates the unique charm of this very special corner of England.

The fully waymarked trail extends from Ilkley to Bowness-on-Windermere, linking two of England's most celebrated national parks. Well served for accommodation and facilities, and with easy walking on riverside paths, it is one of the gentlest multi-day walks in Britain and therefore an ideal introduction to long-distance walking. The guide presents the walk in six daily stages of 7-19 miles (with suggestions for alternative schedules), with a route description in both directions.

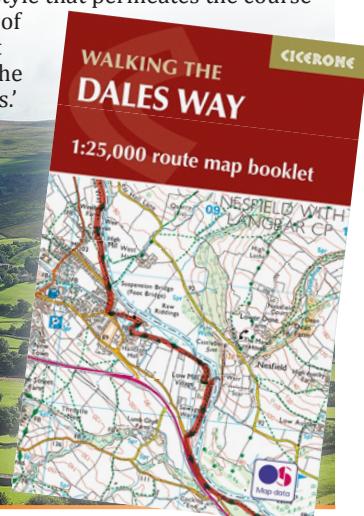
The comprehensive route description is accompanied by 1:100,000 mapping, and a trek planner, showing where facilities are available, is included to facilitate planning.

Accommodation listings and useful contacts can be found in the appendices. A separate, conveniently-sized map booklet located in the back cover sleeve provides all the OS 1:25,000 mapping needed to complete the trail, eliminating the need to carry multiple paper maps. Offering a wealth of information on local points of interest, geology, history, plants and wildlife, as well as all the necessary practicalities such as when to go, how to get there and what to take, this guide is an ideal companion to enjoying this delightful route.

As Terry writes in his Preface: 'With so much of interest concentrated in so (comparatively) short a walk, for a full enjoyment of the process, it is vital to allow time to explore and potter about, to paddle in the streams and rivers, to visit churches (and pubs), to get something of a feel for the lifestyle that permeates the course of the Way and of the history that has fashioned the land it traverses.'



Terry Marsh





Signpost Report

January-May 2018

David Morton, Signpost Officer

New Signposts since January

No new signposts have been installed, but three have been stolen, leaving 487. Two more have been badly damaged and several others have required attention, so the team has been fairly busy, even in February and March when the weather was wintry.

On the plus side **86, 106** and **107** were all shotblasted, powder-coated and reposted.

Peter Ash began his repainting programme with **S056** on the A57 Snake Pass, then helped John Hodgson to reinstate **086** at the south end of Mortimer Road near Moscar House, after it had been knocked down during road works. He also repainted **152** at the former Moorside Hotel and **246** at Kishfield Bridge, Kettleshulme.

John and Ted reinstated **106** at Alport Bridge and set it back a few yards from the A57 in order to reduce damage from salt spray.

107 was kindly reinstated near Alport Castles by N.T. Ranger Kait Jones et al.

276 was reinstated by Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust volunteers at Blacka near Totley, with a re-designed plate, a new memorial plaque and a donation of £100.

New Memorial Plaques were fixed to **550** (Marple G.C.) and **539** (Flash) for Altrincham RA and Trafford Walkers respectively. A stolen MP was replaced on **456** at Eyam Moor and a stolen Join Us Plaque on **103** at Sparbent.

I recently revisited Win Hill with Mike Atkinson of Halcyon Ramblers and I was then able to complete the drawing for Toposcope 3, which will be in memory of Geoff Errington, a Taylor House volunteer who travelled up every Monday from Belper.

On the debit side, **346** at Whittle was confirmed stolen, but the owner's tale blaming errant youths was disconfirmed by others.

In April, following reports of damage to **002** and **019** near Kinder Reservoir dam, I visited the scene and found one plate from **002** smashed, two plates from **019** in smithereens and the post uprooted and thrown over the nearby dry-stone wall. I temporarily re-fixed **019** in its hole and notified Tom Harman of the NT of damage to the NT's new gate and Bridleway Signs. I have had no reply from him.

May brought more bad news. **529** and **535** respectively on and south of Longridge Fell had both been stolen lock, stock and barrel, even though **529** is only accessible to vehicles via a forest road with a locked barrier. I reported the theft to Lancashire Police's CSO at Longridge and contacted the Clitheroe Advertiser.

Both plaques on **251** at Gradbach Mill were stolen.

Some Good News

After contacting Richard Felton and Keith Feltham (Insp. for Ashover) I expect to place up to ten new signposts around Ashover. **552** now carries a memorial plaque to Roy Cannon, 1921-2017 thanks to a generous donation from S.Yorkshire and N.E.Derbyshire Area Ramblers. I have landowners' consent for two in Quarnford and am hopeful of two or three more in both Blacko, Pendle and Holymoorside.

Finally, we have redesigned the **Join Us Plaque**, so that it tells people what PNFS do.

Join Us!

PEAK & NORTHERN
FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

Working to protect & preserve
footpaths & help walkers
since 1894

Contact us today for more information

0161 480 3565

mail@pnfs.org.uk

www.peakandnorthern.org.uk

Short and Longer Walks *Note: Train times may be subject to change.*

Short Walks

John Fisher

Wednesday July 11th

Leader – John Fisher (01625 439298,
mob 07432 825624).

Disley to Whaley Bridge, 6 miles, some hills.
Train Manchester Picc 09:48.
Walk starts Disley station 10:25.

Wednesday August 8th

Leader – John Harker (07929 051978).
Grindleford circular, 7-8 miles, no steep climbs,
couple of gradual ascents.
Train M'chester Picc 09:40, or Sheffield 10:14.
Walk starts Grindleford station 10:45.



Wednesday September 12th

Leader – Martin Riley (01706 848408).
Derker to Shaw & Crompton, 6 miles.
Walk starts Derker Metro station 11:00.

Wednesday October 10th

Leader – Paul Easthope (01457 855015 or
mob 07759 653354).
New Mills circular, 7-8 miles.
Train M'chester Picc 09:40.
Walk starts New Mills Central station 10:10.

Wednesday November 14th

Leader – David Hurrell (0114 288 6474).
Details to be confirmed.

Wednesday December 12th

Leader – Marie Critchley (01663 746811).
Chun to Glossop, 6 miles.
Train Manchester Picc 09:59
Meet Glossop station for 11:00 bus to Chunal.
Then joint social (Wetherspoons Glossop).

Longer Walks

David Bratt

Wednesday July 25th

Leader – Ken Brockway (01949 843572).
DH Lawrence country, 10 miles, undulating (see
page 12 for more detail).
Train M'chr Picc 09:43, then Sheffield 11:05.
Walk starts Ilkeston station 11:45.

Wednesday August 29th

Leader – Dave Rigby (01484 846412).
Slaithwaite circular U Colne Valley, 9 mls, hilly.
Train M'chr Picc 09:47, or Huddersfield 10:01.
Walk starts Slaithwaite station 10:15.

Wednesday September 26th

Leader – Vince Joyce (01942 603626).
Whaley Bridge circular, 12 mls, 2000 ft ascent.
Train M'chr Picc 09:48, then Stockport 10:03.
Walk starts Whaley Bridge station 10:30.

Wednesday October 31st

Leader – Phil Gadsby (0161 748 5757).
Atherton to Wigan Pier linear, 11 miles, flattish.
Train M'chr Vic 09:37->Salford Crescent 09:44.
Walk starts Atherton station 10:05.

Wednesday November 28th

Leader – Ian Salvage (01663 746979).
Edale to Hope linear, 9 miles, 1200 ft ascent.
Train M'chester Picc 09:40, or Sheffield 10:50.
Walk starts Edale station 10:25 (10:50 if leader
advised of arrivals from Sheffield).

Wednesday December 12th

(NOTE: not last Wed in month)

Leader – Paul Easthope (01457 855015).
Glossop circular, 10 miles, 1500 ft ascent.
Train M'chester Picc 09:29.
Walk starts Glossop station 10:00
Then joint social (Wetherspoons Glossop).



July's Longer Walk

Ken Brockway, PNFS Member and Walk Leader

July's longer walk (25th July) will start from Ilkeston, a station that closed many years ago but re-opened in April 2017.

Leaving Manchester Piccadilly at 09:43 via Sheffield, we can set off when the train arrives at 11:44. Bargain tickets should be available for Greater Manchester, while Derbyshire has its Senior Wayfarer at £6.30 (buy one by post). This ticket can be used from New Mills Central via Sheffield to Ilkeston and covers all day travel on trains (after 9am) and buses.

Our walk of 10 miles across relatively flat terrain starts in the countryside setting for the works by D.H. Lawrence. We follow the level towpath of two canals before heading for the pretty village of Stanton-by-Dale. Next comes Dale Abbey (see photo); as the name suggests, this offers the remains of a 12th century abbey. The walk ends beside the Grade I Listed post mill at Cat and Fiddle. From here we flag down one of the frequent buses back into Ilkeston where a Wetherspoon's can offer food and drink before the journey home.



Managing the “Green Lanes” Network in Peak District National Park

John Harker, Area Officer



Since 2007, National Park Authorities (NPAs) have had statutory powers to impose Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) on any route that is considered to be at risk from damage, or is being damaged, by recreational mechanically propelled vehicles (MPVs), frequently called “off-roaders”. The Peak District NPA has had a strategy for managing this issue since 2012 and appointed a part-time temporary officer to implement it in 2013, who became permanent in 2017. A yearly report is presented to members of the NPA’s Audit, Resources and Performance Committee; this is a link to the latest one: <https://democracy.peakdistrict.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=8005#mgDocuments>. A brief article like this cannot do justice to such a complex subject, but the Society is heavily engaged in the process of trying to influence outcomes through its membership of the Peak District Green Lanes Alliance (PDGLA). Society officers also respond to individual consultations about potential TROs. Most recently, to one about the unclassified route through Wetton Hills in the Staffordshire Peak and to a Derbyshire County Council one for Byway Open To All Traffic (BOAT) 15 linking Stoney Middleton and Eyam in Derbyshire Dales. The Society has even resorted to legal proceedings when thought necessary by the Courts & Inquiries Committee. Rhoda Barnett was authorised to serve notice under section 56 of the Highways Act 1980 on Derbyshire County Council for an out of repair surface on Ballidon BOAT 11, known as Gallowlow Lane and Minning-glow Lane. The outcome is that the officer dealing with this case has informed Rhoda that a repair plan is going to be implemented as a high priority, as soon as resources permit. Ideally, we want a permanent TRO imposing, but this is not being considered as yet. There is evidence from the NPA’s logging of numbers of vehicles using the route that the voluntary code of practice in place has led to a reduction in use by MPVs by around 40%. Is this enough? Will any repair work done simply be wasted by the further damage caused?

Society members can help by responding themselves to such consultations. Numbers matter, and the more walkers who respond by supporting the idea of a permanent TRO on such routes the better. Rest assured, the MPV lobby will be urging its members to do the same against such bans and they are very effective in getting their supporters out in numbers.

My Favourite Café

Stalybridge Station

David Bratt, President



A tad quirky maybe, but my favourite café is located on Platform 3 of Stalybridge Station (as per piccy). It's called "The Coffee Shop" and it's been run for the last 8 years by a lovely, friendly and welcoming couple, Janet and Steve (see piccy below).

It's open 06:00 to 14:00 Monday to Friday. Contact number if you want to pre-order when arriving by train is 07545 906858. All part of the service!!

There isn't extensive haute cuisine, but the hot snacks are awesome. My staple diet when visiting is Americano coffee and a toasted teacake, per request heavily enriched with the yellow stuff!



All prices are very reasonable (see menu). There's also a wide range of drinks and confectionery on offer. Side benefits of its platform location are good hill views, a steady stream of passing trains and the British joy of observing all the strands of your fellow mankind!! In summary, I just love the place and give it a top rating.

THE COFFEE SHOP	
MENU	
TOASTED TEACAKE	70p
BACON MUFFIN	£1.60
BAVARIAN MUFFIN	£1.60
BAVARIAN SAUSAGE MUFFIN	£2.30
CHEESE TOASTIE	£2.30
SPAN MUFFIN	£1.60
POORIDGE TO GO	£1.60
	£1.60

A New and Very Welcome Volunteer to the Team

Recently, Jenny Allen, a relatively new Courts & Inquiries Officer with Peak and Northern spoke to a friend of hers, Ruth Whaites, about donating some of her time and skills to the Society. The good news is that Ruth has agreed to take on a marketing role for us. She has hardly had time to get her feet under the table yet, so it was too early for her to introduce herself in this newsletter. However, I hope that she will be able to introduce herself in the next edition, together with what her role is (and just as importantly, isn't) going to cover.

Welcome aboard Ruth.

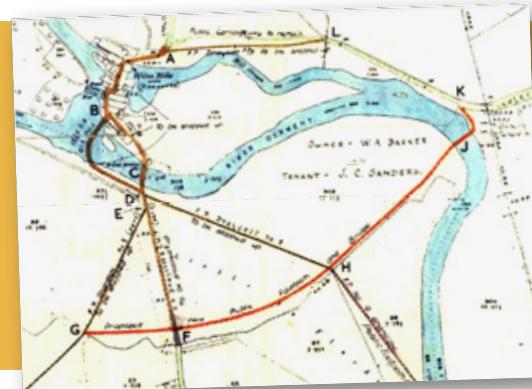


Holme Valley framed

John Harker, Area Officer



John spotted a recent initiative by the University of Huddersfield while scaling the heights of Holme Moss the other day. I don't think you can guarantee that the sheep will be in the same place should you visit, and the weather may not be as clement, but the rest of the framing should be guaranteed!



Welcome back, Draycott & Church Wilne Footpath 8

Ken Brockway, PNFS Member

Back in 2015 when I did the first parish inspection I missed a small gap on the map at the end of Shardlow and Great Wilne footpath 9. There was no issue on the ground; a bridge crossed a drain where a stile at the parish boundary allowed unimpeded access to Shardlow. Only later after a careful inspection of the Derbyshire online map did my investigations begin.

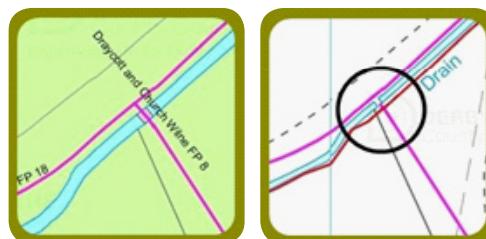
In June of 1950 Claud Harold Wallis of Derby Road Draycott was completing the parish return for the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. He was clearly aware of a local issue because he adds a comment "Foot bridge not in place at time of survey, in dispute through Mill Yard." He then recorded "FP8...Starting Point Wilne Toll Bridge...Finishing Point Derwent Mouth Lock"

A recent history of the area "Neddytown" by Richard Guise has this to say about the bridge: "Wilne Bridge formed part of the regular journey to work for many of the workers at Draycott, paying their penny toll...After the collapse (in 1936) a pedestrian-only bridge was built and opened in 1937. This later structure, now (2014) a rusty hulk that still spans the river was closed... in 1950 (despite vehement protests from both sides of the river..).

For eleven years the network of paths that converged on the derelict bridge remained out of use enforcing a twelve mile journey by road for those who needed to make the journey on foot. Finally in May 1961 there was movement when a notice appeared in the London Gazette proposing that the old footpaths be stopped up and a path created linking with a 'new footbridge to be constructed' (250 metres downstream).

Hold your horses, we are not there yet...In a letter of July 1961 "The Magistrate asked the County Council to give favourable consideration to the making of the new highway into a bridleway...it will be necessary to construct ramp approaches to the bridge instead of 12 steps...which is the present design." The Magistrate didn't get his wish and the bridge still stands linked to a footpath network...but.

Derbyshire County Council misinterpreted the order back in 1961 and removed the whole of D&CW FP8 from the Definitive Map, including the ten metres that runs from the new footpath over the drain bridge to a stile on the boundary with Shardlow parish, as you can see from the map.



My list of paths for inspection in 2015 jumped from FP7 to 9 but I'm delighted to report that 8 has now reappeared on the map; see the latest version online. Ten metres may appear insignificant but as Neil Armstrong said.....
'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.'



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Before



After

And Finally

Bill Parke & John Harker

Earlier this year, Bill Parke reported that a stile on Chesterfield footpath 27 (at SK3906.7626, Grasscroft Wood) required a step or replacement with a wicket gate. Aidan Rumble of Derbyshire County Council advised in March that the landowner had agreed to provide the necessary step, and the work was duly completed before Easter. These 'Before' and 'After' photos show the change

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