

SIGNPOST

Newsletter of the
Peak and Northern Footpaths Society



*A challenging stile
confronted David Morton,
our Signposts Officer,
while out and about.*

*After due consideration,
David opted for the easier
stile to the left rather
than risk a hernia.*

*John Harker, one of
our Courts & Inquiries
Officers, spotted these
stones, dating from the
19th Century, while
out roaming on
Broomhead Moor.
Marking an owner's
property boundary at
that time, they are
certainly more
attractive than the
barbed wire we often
see today.*





Chairman's Piece

Well what a summer we have had. Plenty of warm and sometimes hot days in which to enjoy the summer with all its glories. Many of you will have been away to the seaside or other holiday destinations and enjoyed basking in the sunshine. Not everybody has enjoyed the hot sunshine, and some people have made a conscious effort to avoid the cloudless skies and sat in the shade. I recall two very hot days whilst out walking. One was in upper Longdendale, where the sun shone from a cloudless sky all day. There was no shelter from the sun, on what was a very hot day for Longdendale. Still it was much better than the cold winds of winter.

The second very hot day saw me on Kinder Scout, with again sun shining from a cloudless sky. This was very different from the walk in Longdendale, as there were many groups of young people, it being a Saturday in August. It was clear that many had not experienced Kinder Scout in winter conditions, as they were dressed for the beach. It was only four weeks later that again saw me on Kinder Scout in much more typical Kinder conditions, where there was fog and light rain on the very top. Still, there were some opportunities for spectacular photographs of the fog drifting down the hillside into Edale. And the blackberries this Autumn have been brilliant.

The additional powers that Peak and Northern Footpaths Society now has saw Paul Easthope, our Treasurer, and myself meeting with representatives of the Peak District National Park in Bakewell, to hear of projects that would lead to Rights of Way being improved. We came away with two suggested projects, one just over the border from Derbyshire in Staffordshire, and one along the river Derwent, near Hathersage. Both these are currently being looked at by the Trustees, with contributions from the Courts & Inquiries Team.

No decision has yet been made, because of the different aspects that need to be investigated.

The Society has recently appointed a Marketing Officer to promote the Society in a broader sphere than in the walking world. The lady is Ruth Whaites who is currently living in North Wales. This may seem a long way from our office, but we shouldn't forget that the Cheshire West Authority borders a large part of North Wales. With the use of the internet, distance makes little difference these days. Ruth has considerable experience in methods of recruitment.

Ruth has already produced a paper with a number of suggestions for the Trustees to discuss, and amongst her suggestions is one for more lady Trustees. She has also suggested that we look at the recruitment of younger members, and has put forward some proposals for the Trustees to look at. If any lady feels she could fill the role of Trustee, would she please contact me or any other Trustee.



On the topic of recruitment, we are always looking for new persons to fill gaps in the Society which would help with the provision of succession for currently active people. As a 'for instance', we do need someone to fill the position of Vice Chairman. Remember it can be a person of either sex.

David Hurrell
Chairman & Trustee



My new role in PNFS



**Ruth Whaites,
Marketing Manager**

Whilst I have lived in the Peak District for over 30 years, I have also worked overseas in Hong Kong and Thailand, teaching Western cookery and Business Studies and Marketing.

On my return to Britain I was the International Recruitment Manager at a Further Education College. During this time, I gained a certificate in International Marketing from the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM). The Post involved extensive travel to the Far East, where I experienced at first hand the destruction of country parks for commercial building.

I have now retired to North Wales where I volunteer with the National Trust and Age Cymru and am a member of the Flower Guild and a Steward for Bangor Cathedral. Every year I organise a Strawberry Tea in my village to raise funds for charities. My other interests are exploring the Slate quarrymen's paths in the area, trying out unusual cake recipes and learning to speak Welsh.

As a keen walker, I have been surprised at the number of footpaths and rights of way which have not been maintained in the area, but which need to be protected and preserved for future generations. It's a pity PNFS only operates in England!

I am interested in helping to promote and market the Society to widen our demographic and increase our membership.



Peak & Northern DURING THE GREAT WAR



**David Brown
(Secretary),**

**David Morton
(Signposts),**

**John Harker
(C&IO)**

A chance comment circulated by John Harker set David's Brown and Morton to work. John had accompanied a picture of a well dressing with the comment 'a few Society members probably died in the Great War.'

David Morton (drawing on information provided to him by Eric Kime who served in the BEF in France in 1939-40) thought that the Society suspended activities during the Great War, but that this was later felt to be a mistake, so activities carried on regardless during World War 2. He also contributed that we have a sign near Kettleshulme commemorating a sergeant air-gunner who died on active service in World War 2.

David Brown dug through old annual reports to see what they held. The 1915 report suggested an attempt to keep the Society going but the next, 1920, report stated that there was nothing special to report. The 1939 report says: "On the outbreak of war your council considered as to whether the work of the society should continue. Having in mind that as a result of virtually "closing down" during 1914-1918, the Society seemed in danger of going out of existence, the Council was unanimously of the opinion that if at all possible the work of the Society should be carried out without restriction".

So it looks as though David M's understanding was correct. Does anyone else have any information that would enhance the picture? If so, please send it to: mail@pnfs.org.uk .



An Inspector's Life

Keith Feltham, *Footpaths Inspector*

I first became aware of PNFS at a Bank Holiday market at Chesterfield in August 1988 where a stall was advertising the society. Having been a keen walker all my life I had a chat with the two men (I know not whom they were) manning the stall and took away with me two leaflets, one detailing its work and aims, the other a membership application. Being impressed by its policies and the fact that all those involved were volunteers working part time, I soon joined the society. After a few months, I decided that I could perhaps play my part in trying to get Public Rights of Way (PROW) conditions improved and applied for a position as footpaths' inspector. The late Derek Taylor, Hon. General Secretary, contacted me and offered area 18, which included all the parishes in the North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) area. I immediately accepted and on 18th May 1989, the Society's Committee confirmed the appointment.

At that time, reports of problems went to Derek who would forward those concerning missing signposts to the County Council and any others to the District Council who were working on behalf of the county. The system worked well, although I thought a little slowly, but I later discovered that it would always be a slow process. Derek said to me later that it was a 'dripping tap' effect and patience was key to success. My memory says that initially most results were signpost erections.

NEDDC employed a footpath inspector and at his instigation, we made many site visits together where I could point out the exact problems. I found this very useful, although it did not always produce my desired outcome (but he usually did his best). Most improvements to the PROW system were crop clearance and cutting back round stiles and gates, which had been virtually non-existent.

In 1992 Barrie Clarke offered his services as inspector to the society, reducing my area to the 16 parishes in the southern half of the NEDDC area, which was more manageable, although with still 600 PROW to be inspected, at six monthly intervals (as Derek requested), an impossible task.

Derek Taylor suddenly passing away in January 2000 must have been a huge loss to the society, as he did a prodigious amount of work, but within a short time, service continued as previously. Then in 2001, at Derbyshire County Council's (DCC) request, I started inspecting PROW for their Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) surveys, and continued doing so bi-annually until May this year. Until 2003, my reports were hand-written, with copies kept by use of carbon paper. Then I acquired my first computer, making saving and copying much easier. The following year I became connected to the internet and had an email address, ending the need to send reports by post. A retrograde step – in my opinion – came in 2005, when NEDDC handed PROW back to DCC. I have found they make lots of promises, but do not produce results, with things getting worse in the last couple of years due to a reduction in their resources i.e. staff and finances.

The reporting system was simplified in 2007 with reports going directly to Highway Authorities, and copies to PNFS. It made communication with DCC quicker, but did not speed up problem resolution. I have found them adept at avoiding action by such means as referring problems for investigation as mapping anomalies, or giving them a low priority rating, for action at a later date (meaning never). I have enjoyed every minute of my time inspecting; it has taken me to areas that I otherwise would not have visited and I recommend it to anyone considering it as a contribution to improve the PROW system, but do not expect quick results. There have been many successes; maybe none can be classed as major, but just making a footpath or bridleway accessible can be important to someone.





The original sign discouraging walkers from using the PRoW



The PRoW blockage between 2 gardens. The barrel is filled with ballast and is immovable.



The amended notice, which is apparently permissible according to Bolton's PRoW officer



The blockage has been moved & the barrel emptied, but the adjacent shrub is now growing into the gap

Update on 'The Heights'

You may remember that we featured the ongoing battle to secure access rights on a Public Right of Way (PRoW) at 'The Heights'. Thanks to the commitment of Jim, with the support of Bolton Council, in particular Andrew Smith (PRoW Officer), we have secured progress on this. There is still work to be done to get this right, but walkers can now pass. It seems likely that when all this settles down, the path will be diverted away from the gardens.

On 2nd August, Andrew wrote to Jim with the news that:

'We have served notice on the owner of no 6, The Heights. The notice period to enable us to remove the obstruction and signage has now expired and I am awaiting a response from the police to be in attendance when we attend site with the contractor. This has been slightly delayed because the occupier has sent correspondence that required our solicitor to respond, staff being on leave has also delayed matters. I cannot give any exact time but action is imminent.'

Then on 7th August, Jim reported:

'Stop press news today from Andrew Smith, Bolton's PRoW officer, who has reported to me that the obstruction at the Heights has been removed, and that waymarkers are about to be put up. A result at last.'

So the persistence and dedication of PNFS's people does pay off, even if it sometimes seems to take an inordinate amount of time. Hopefully, the next update on this particular path will be further good news, as the saga is not yet over (see the photos left).

**Jim Foster (Footpath Inspector)
& David Bratt (President)**

Editor's Note: In the last newsletter, there was an error in the article concerning the bridge that was funded in Barnsley by PNFS. In the article, it was stated that the new footbridge and boardwalk were on Gunthorpe & Ingbirchworth footpath 2. They are actually at Gunthwaite. Apologies for any confusion caused.

Neville McGraw, 1946 – 2018

Paul Easthope,
Treasurer, Trustee and a good friend of Neville's

Neville grew up in Broadbottom, Tameside. After attending Hyde Grammar school, he obtained a degree in Psychology from Liverpool University.

Nev spent most of his working life in teaching, retiring as head of English at Egerton Park High School in Denton, Tameside.

The local MP for Denton, Andrew Gwynne, said about Nev during a debate in Parliament: 'You never forget brilliant teachers... like Mr McGraw at Egerton Park Community High School in Denton. He got me through my GCSE English in 1989-90!' Nev was a cricket player until his early thirties but found it taking up too much time. He seemed interested in my love of fell walking so I took him down to Manchester for his first pair of boots. They were from the YHA shop, long since gone. That was the start of a lifelong friendship. We walked in the Peak District, Lake District and abroad over the years. Nev also took up fell running but could not persuade me to jog along.

In our later years we started walking the National trails with another of my lifelong friends, who was a keen PNFS signpost bagger. Unfortunately he died nine years ago. As a memorial we decided to donate a signpost. Through this we became members of the Society.

It was not long before David Bratt roped us into leading the long walks. We nearly always led the walk together, which was useful as one could act as a sweeper. I remember the first walk we led from Glossop. Lunch was at Crowden in a snow storm. We always seemed to get the December walk so it was not that unexpected. Recently Nev had missed the longer walks for over a year due to ill health. However he had recently regained his health and was back on the walks. His last walk was Dave Rigby's walk from Slaithwaite in July. A week later he died in a tragic road accident whilst out for his morning run.



Double the trouble – but no longer

John Harker,
C&I Officer

John was out walking at the end of July on Ilbe footpath no 4 near Cromford, when he came across a perfectly serviceable wooden stile which had been augmented by a second contraption which he understandably considered to be an obstruction of the highway, unauthorised and quite unnecessary (see photo).

He reported it to Derbyshire County Council (DCC), requesting its removal.

The good news is that he received a reasonably prompt reply (on 12 September) from DCC, saying that they had written to the landowner regarding the stile, and also spoken to them in person on 11th September. The landowner has agreed to remove the second stile, as "it is no longer required". Why it was ever required is questionable, but at least the situation has now been remedied.



Beighton Footpath 95 - a successful outcome

A recent decision letter on a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) by Sheffield City Council used involvement from both myself and from former Inspector and Trustee, Jack Burling.

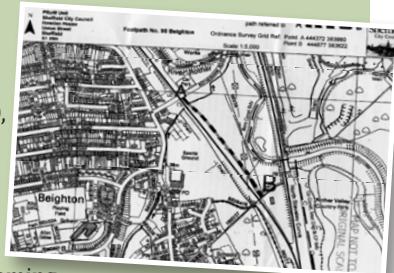
The decision order has added a footpath to the Definitive Map & Survey for Beighton Parish in Sheffield.

Jack & I interviewed extra witnesses to gather more user information for Sheffield Council. The upshot is that the Order has been confirmed with minor administrative modifications which don't affect the outcome. The only objector to the DMMO, the owner of a scrap recycling company, refused to participate in the process, so the Planning Inspectorate cancelled the planned public local inquiry and resolved it by means of the written representations method.

One of the elderly witnesses that we interviewed recalled using the claimed footpath while in the Merchant Navy when coming home on leave to visit family in Beighton. He used it to get the "milk train" from Beighton railway station on Rotherham Road back to his ship. The station was near Point A on the Order Plan by 'LC' (the level crossing), but is long gone. He recalled many local anglers using the claimed path when special excursion trains were put on from the station to Lincolnshire.

The dispute over the claimed footpath was quite a 'cause celebre' in the village, with one large scale public meeting at the Miners Welfare Hall ending in blows between users and scrapyard employees!

Further information on this decision is available online at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/737256/row_3175719_decision.pdf



Site of former station



Start of claimed footpath from Rotherham Road opposite the old station

John Harker, C&I Officer

New Pin Badge **Paul Easthope, Treasurer & Trustee**

PNFS has a new pin badge available. It is 25mm in diameter, single pin with a secure clip on the back. The cost is a minimum donation of £3, including postage & packing.

Send your order/ payment to the Treasurer at Peak & Northern Footpaths Society, 23 Turncroft Lane, Stockport SK1 4AB.

Or order online at: treasurer@peakandnorthern.org.uk



PNFS - 80 YEARS AGO

You may remember that in the Autumn 2017 edition of Signpost, I delved back through the Society's records to see what we were up to 50 years ago. Feeling in the mood for a little more research, I decided to head back 80 years to see what was going on then.

The annual report for 2018 makes interesting reading. The first thing that struck me was the size of the 'committee', or 'Council' as it was known in those days. As well as a Chair and Vice-Chair, there appear to have been 24 further Members. This may be an indication of how automation has simplified our lives, and helped us to do more with less people. Or it may be a symptom of how people are less willing to volunteer these days, citing other pressures that impinge on their daily lives.

In addition, there were 7 Vice-Presidents, including a 'Sir' (Sir E. D. Simon), an OBE, a CBE and two JP's. Sir Simon was a Mayor of Manchester between 1921 and 1922, the youngest to have held this office at the time, and is remembered for his efforts to remove slums and build new housing for the workers. He also bought, and then donated, Wythenshawe Hall and Park to the City's people in 1926.

But what were the big events then? One of major significance, occurring towards the end of the year was the 'Conference of Footpaths Societies' held in London on 4 and 5 November. Our Society was represented. Our report indicates that: 'one of the many matters considered was that of access to mountains...Immediately following the Conference, the Commons Society prepared a draft of a new Bill, to be called "Access to Uncultivated Lands Bill"...and steps were taken to endeavour to agree the draft with the landowners' organisations.' It had its second reading in Parliament as early as 2nd December, but at this, it was 'made quite clear that it would have to be considerably amended'.

Negotiations between the Commons Society, the Central Landowners Association and the Land Union continued through December, in an effort to gain an acceptable form of the Bill. Our Society attended a Conference called by the Footpaths Society, at which amendments were made to the draft Bill. Several suggestions from our Society were made and accepted. A follow-up Conference then considered suggestions from the landowners' organisations.

Our Society noted that as of the end of December, the attitude of the landowners was not publicly known, and therefore, it was 'difficult to foretell what would happen to the Bill...during the Committee stage, but your officers and Council feel it is the duty of the Society to do all within its power to help forward the negotiations and the Bill'.



It is interesting, though of course understandable, there was no mention in our Society's report of the fact that the Conference held in November marked one of the first public airings of Tom Stephenson's inspirational proposal to take forward a long-distance footpath along the Pennines. Of course, the Conference had a much broader remit then than that of long-distance paths, but it was the starting point from which the development of National Parks and Long-Distance Footpaths evolved, albeit not always in as sprightly a fashion as that which moved the Bill forward in its early draft stages. If you'd like to read more, the 1938 report can be found here: <http://www.peakandnorthern.org.uk/pnfs-publications/annual-reports/1938.pdf>.

Ian Salvage
Signpost Editor

Glossop Footpath 101

A long standing footpath problem has at last been rectified after concerted efforts by PNFS. The problem on Glossop FP101 goes back to the 70's. In his book "Pathwise in Glossop & Longdendale", David Frith explains the end of the path, "from which one jumps down a wall onto Dinting Road".

Previous Footpath Inspectors have reported the problem to Derbyshire County Council (DCC). However, most credit should go to Bill Buckley, our past Membership secretary and now Inspector for Glossop. He reported the fault to DCC in Jan 17, whose form now allows a photo to be attached. This obviously enabled the Council to see how bad the path had become. Bill's pressure on DCC finally resulted in this part of the path being rebuilt. In the 'before' photo, you can see Bill struggling down this part. The 'after' photo shows the results of our efforts. Some may say 18 months is too long a time scale to have these repairs carried out, but with local authorities on very tight budgets this must be considered a PNFS success.

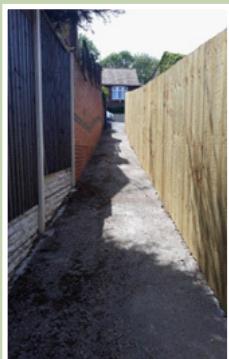
Paul Easthope, *Treasurer & Trustee*



Heanor and Loscoe Footpath 160



Before



After

Footpath 160 is the path for which I was given authority to serve Form 1 under s.130AHA80. Derbyshire County Council (DCC) eventually managed to persuade the owner of the property on Lacey Fields Road in Heanor to reopen it through his property without me having to force the issue by serving notice.

A substantial fence had been built, completely blocking the path.

The reopened footpath now runs as a gennel, with the fence that existed previously on the left in the photo and the new fence on the right. Thanks to Hilary Greenhough (DCC Rights of Way Inspector) for sending the 'after' photo.

John Harker, *C&I Officer*



Signpost Report, September 2017

David Morton, *Signpost Officer*

New signposts since May: only six have been installed, due mainly to the very hot weather. No more were stolen or vandalised, so we now have a total of 493. We hope to reach 500 soon.

- S562 is at Far Benfield farm at the intersection of Bredbury and Romiley footpaths 6 & 91.
- S564 is near Vernon Lane Farm, Ashover on FP120 & BW140.
- S565 is near Robridding Farm, Ashover on FP120.
- S570 is on Easton Lane, Ashover on FP121.
- S574 is below Gradbach Scout camp on Quarnford FPs 1 and 22.
- S575 is on Goldsytch Farm on Quarnford 42 – see Signpost Gallery at www.pnfs.org.uk.

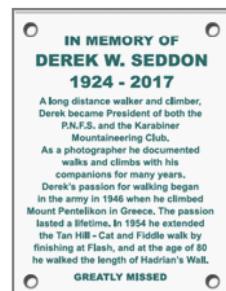
All are available for memorials for a donation of £300, (going up soon due to increased costs).

Peter Ash repainted signposts 10, 68, 251, 288 and 338 and visited the top of Win Hill with me, after offering his help with fixing Toposcope 3, when it is made.

I wedged several loose posts and plates and visited many more which had not been inspected for three years. Only S257 remains to be done, but the respite will be short-lived.

Further good news is that:

- the two plaques missing from S251 at Gradbach Mill were not stolen. They had fallen off and been taken into the mill for safekeeping, so we now have a spare set.
- S203 and 316 near Chew Reservoir, Greenfield, were spared by the moorland fire in May.
- In early September, I gained consents for twelve new signposts in Grindon, Hollinsclough & Blacko, and collected seven new, unrelated plates for Ashover, Glossop & Hollinsclough. One is a thicker replacement for the vandalised S019 at Kinder Reservoir.
- I belatedly contacted Pat Seddon and we will shortly be putting up two memorial plaques in memory of her husband and our stalwart, former chairman and president, Derek, who is fondly remembered by all who knew him. The signs will be S557 between Walker Barn and Lamaload Reservoir and S105 south of “The Cat and Fiddle”.



Holmfirth 175/10 - a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT)



John Harker, *C&I Officer*

The photo shows the infamous Ramsden Road (Holmfirth 175/10) in the upper Holme valley near Holme village. It lies just on the edge of the Peak District National Park. The steep sections up from Ramsden Reservoir are in very poor state after heavy use by off-road vehicles. The situation is so bad that the Green Lane Association, the main ‘off-roader’ organisation in the UK, has notices on-site begging users not to go “off piste” from the BOAT.

Short Walks

John Fisher, Walks Co-ordinator

Wed November 14th

Leader: David Hurrell (0114 288 6474)

Hope circular, 7 miles, 1 steady climb

Train Mchr Picc 09:40, arrive 10:30

Or Sheffield 10:14, arrive 10:40

Walk starts Hope Stn 10:45

Wed December 12th

Leader: David Gosling (07841 647275)

Chun to Glossop, 6 miles

Train Mchr Picc 09:59, meet Glossop Stn 10:50

for No 61 bus to Chun

Joint social Wetherspoons Glossop after

Note: check for new 2019 train timetables

Wed January 9th

Leader: John Fisher (01625 439298)

/07432 825624)

Alderley Edge circular, 5 miles, 1 steady climb

Train Mchr Picc 10:37, walk starts Alderley

Edge Stn 11:10

Wed February 13th

Leader: Tony Littler (07812 069869)

Chelford circular, 6-7 miles, flat

Train Mchr Picc 10:01, walk starts Chelford

Stn 10:40

Wed March 13th

Leader: Peter Burns (01744 893432)

Hindley circular, 6-7 miles

Train Mchr Vic 10:28, walk starts Hindley

Stn 11:00

Wed April 10th

Leader: Brian Lomas (0161 688 5237)

Daisy Nook Country Park, 7 miles, gentle

Walk starts Ashton West Metro Stn 11:00

Wed May 8th

Leader: Dave Rigby (01484 846412)

Sowerby Bridge to Hebden Bridge, 7 miles,

some ascent

Train Mchr Vic 09:37, walk starts Sowerby

Bridge Stn 10:30

*August Short Walk,
Calver Mill Weir*



Longer Walks

David Bratt, Walks Co-ordinator

Wed November 28th

Leader: Ian Salvage (01663 746979)

Edale to Hope, 8 miles, undulating

Train M'chr Picc 09:40, or Sheffield 10:14,

walk starts Edale Stn 10:50

Wed December 12th

NOTE: NOT LAST WED IN MONTH

Leader: Paul Easthope (01457 855015)

Glossop circular, 10 miles, 1500 ft ascent

Train M'chr Picc 09:29, walk starts

Glossop Stn 10:00

Joint social Wetherspoons Glossop after



Wed January 30th

Leader: Martin Riley (01706 848408)

Saddleworth area, 10 miles, hilly

M'chr Metro tram to Shaw and Crompton

Wed February 27th

Leader: Tony Littler (07812 069869)

Kidsgrove – Congleton linear, 10 miles,

undulating

M'chr Picc 09:44, walk starts Kidsgrove Stn 10:35

Wed March 27th

Leader: Phil Gadsby (0161 748 5757)

Walk to include visit to 'The Heights' to assert

walkers' rights

Full details will appear on website

Wed April 24th

Leader: Bill Minshall (07518 926031)

Circular walk Congleton, 10 miles, hilly.

M'chr Picc 09:44, walk starts

Congleton Stn 10:30.



Parish Notes – Wortley, near Barnsley

**Mel Bale, Webmaster,
Membership Secretary & Trustee**

Wortley is the southernmost parish of Barnsley. Shaped like a crudely hewn piece of the local gritstone its border seems to have been driven into the northern boundary of Sheffield as if it was a dagger! Why then is the parish not part of Sheffield. The answer lies in the history of the area. Almost two thirds of Wortley is currently owned by the Wharncliffe Estate, in fact most of the parish has been owned by one powerful family after another for over 800 years.

The manor of Wortley can be traced back to the Domesday book where it was recorded as both Wirtleie and Wrleia. These names are believed to derive from Wyrta, the Anglo Saxon for vegetable and leah or ley meaning a clearing in a wood. Wortley and the neighbouring manors of Tankersley and Pilley once formed a single parish and it wasn't until the nineteenth century that Wortley became one in its own right.

In 1252, the then Lord of Wortley was granted 'free warren' over his manor, thus giving him the sole right to hunt anything on his land. This led to the creation of Wharncliffe Chase which at that time covered most of the southern part of the manor. Early maps of the area suggest that the family home once existed on the Chase. Sixteenth century records show that this was abandoned and a new and probably much grander house, Wortley Hall, was built in the more sheltered area north of the manor. The present Hall was rebuilt in the mid 1750s. It was commandeered for use by American soldiers during the 2nd World war, after which it was abandoned and became almost derelict. Ironically, the once stately home was saved by the National Council of Labour Colleges. An informal voluntary 'army' of trade unionists renovated the building and it reopened as a residential college in 1951.



The parish is a perfect place to walk. Most of the rights of way are in the north, around the village of Wortley and east of the area. They are generally in good condition and are relatively undemanding. The Chase itself has only become fully accessible since the enactment of the CROW act in 2000, before then entry was restricted to certain days of the week and Bank Holidays. The walking here is more rugged and possibly more interesting. It is some of the highest land in Barnsley and there are great views in all directions.



The western edge of the Chase is bounded by the rugged Wharncliffe Crags, a path along which provides a great walk culminating at the impressive Wharncliffe Lodge. It is a former home of the owners and more recently the estate gamekeepers. The spring is an especially good time of year to visit the Chase, the air is alive with the sound of skylarks and with lapwings displaying.

This article is the first in a series of Parish Notes which will be published both on the website and in future editions of the newsletter. Any readers who would like to contribute are encouraged to contact the author at webmaster@pnfs.org.uk.

My Favourite Café



Sett Valley

Ian Salvage,
Signpost Newsletter Editor

The Sett Valley Café is somewhat unusual in appearance and setting. It probably could not be described as sleek or chic, basically being not much more than a large hut sitting opposite a small factory estate in Birch Vale. But the owners have used the space available creatively to make a very congenial spot for a bite to eat and a drink.

Outside, there are picnic benches and a covered area in the (highly unlikely?) event of rain. Inside, there are only a handful of tables, but the staff are very welcoming and try and make sure everyone is catered for. The food is all of a high standard and cooked to order. I have tested the cooked breakfast on a number of occasions and have never been disappointed.

The menu is what you might expect, but with some delightful twists. So alongside paninis, sandwiches, soup and jacket potatoes on the menu, you may find salads such as orzo pasta with mango, pepper, spring onion, chick peas and vine tomatoes with a lime dressing, or farfalle pasta with pesto and basil with pine nuts and parmesan cheese.

As for the cakes, there is normally an excellent array of home-made goodies to tempt (see the photo).



The café's Facebook page can be found at:
<https://www.facebook.com/thesettvalleycafe/>.

Rights of Way Improvements Officer Needed



Can You Help?

Since the Society changed its objects at the AGM in April to include rights of way improvements, we have been discussing how to move forward with the policy. We have formed an "Improvements committee" made up of Jenny Allen, Rhoda Barnett and myself. We are already looking at a scheme next to the Manifold trail for a boardwalk improvement and replacing stiles with gates in conjunction with the Peak District National Park Authority.

However, we need a volunteer to take on the position of "Rights of Way Improvements Officer". The position would require contacting Local Authorities, Wildlife Trusts, the National Trust etc., informing them of the new PNFS policy. The person would also consider schemes presented to the Society as to their suitability for finance by the Society, accompanied by visits to the proposed scheme and presentation of their findings and suggestions to the Improvement Committee.

Any volunteers for the position please contact me at: treasurer@peakandnorthern.org.uk .

**Paul Easthope,
Trustee & Treasurer**



The Peak and Northern Footpaths Society
Taylor House, 23 Turncroft Lane, Offerton, Stockport, SK1 4AB
0161 480 3565 • mail@pnfs.org.uk • Reg Charity No 212219

The PNFS Half-Year Meeting is on Saturday 17th November
At the Britannia Hotel, Dialstone Lane, Offerton, Stockport, 10:30 for an 11:00 start

Guest Speaker: Tim Birch, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

Buses: 383 from Stockport; 384 from Marple station;

192 runs frequently along the nearby A6

For further details, go to:

<http://www.peakandnorthern.org.uk/members/meetings.htm>

To reserve your place at the HYM please inform David Brown
(email: pnfs.meetings@gmail.com, phone: 01663 733236 or text: 07732 682 026)

no later than 12th November stating if lunch is required.

A donation is invited to help defray the catering costs of £9.00 per meal.



Dear PNFS Members

After 3 years as Editor of Signpost, it is time for me to 'hang up my boots' from this role (though not from walking!!). Over this period, so many of you have contributed material, so that for recent editions, I have found that I have more than I can squeeze in. I can therefore only apologise if you have provided me with an article which has not appeared; it was not an indication of its quality, merely that the newsletter does not have expanding sides!!

The role has both challenged and enthused me, and 3 years have flown by. I hand over the reins to Shirley Addy, who I am sure will take the newsletter from strength to strength in the future.

Enjoy your walking!

Ian Salvage



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