

SIGNPOST

Magazine of the
Peak and Northern Footpaths Society

Number 72 - Summer 2022



Stanton-in-Peak

Photograph by Ken Brockway



Spring is now here with light evenings, blossom on trees and lambs in fields. More time for walking and doing the outdoor activities which is key to PNFS's work. The international and national context feels challenging at the moment, such as the rising cost of living and the war going on in Ukraine. Being able to walk without barriers is a great freedom and a chance to reflect and appreciate our circumstances. I have certainly been more reflective on things which perhaps I take for granted but if removed would suddenly be even more precious.

I don't think that we regret that after more than two years of restrictions we are starting to return to some of the things we did accept as normal - for example, holding meetings with other volunteers indoors. On a Friday in April, I was very excited to meet some of my fellow Trustees at Taylor House. It was great to see the renovations to the interior in person; they look very smart, thanks again to David Brown and his wife who did much of the work. It was invaluable chatting to colleagues about the business of PNFS but also exchange small talk. It feels like a great privilege to be able to do this now.

Inspecting footpaths and reporting faults is at the heart of our work and with longer days more inspecting and reporting goes on. All the Area Officers and the Courts and Inquiries team are incredibly knowledgeable and work phenomenally hard for the society. They are supported by Footpath Inspectors who each look after several parishes. We don't have an

inspector for every parish and are always looking for more, though the number has risen significantly over the past two years. Training online has been very successful, but I am sure we will be considering running some training sessions in person before too long. It is good to meet up with fellow inspectors and hear directly from some of the experts in the team.

Fault improvements when action is taken are the key to our purpose. We don't always get timely responses or action and I for one get a small glow of satisfaction when I receive a message to say the issue has been fixed. Sometimes a seemingly minor thing, such as one I reported recently which just required the direction a signpost was pointing to be changed, or others where overgrowth needed cutting back, feel like tiny but important victories. Every improvement, no matter how small, contributes to making the network of public rights of way more accessible to walkers, horse riders and sometimes cyclists.

On 7 May we held our AGM in the Guildhall, Stockport. A significant occasion as it was the first opportunity to meet as a large group of members indoors since the pandemic began. We were delighted to see so many people in person and a few more online. The presentations about the activities of the society in 2021 were followed by some great discussions. We approved some changes and then enjoyed a very pleasant and substantial lunch. We are aware that the sound for those online was inadequate. We apologise but it was a genuine attempt to be inclusive and I am sure we will have a better arrangement in the future. I really enjoyed meeting with people I had only seen on screen and it felt a very friendly and cohesive event. Thank you to Paul Easthope, Jenny Allen, Chad Wilkinson and David Gosling amongst others, for organising everything. Dave Brown kept the register and made sure everyone was welcomed. Do let us know what you felt went well and how we could improve, I am always seeking continuous improvement.

Kathy Mclean, Chair

The Peak and Northern Footpaths Society

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Annual General Meeting

We had to change the venue for the annual general meeting this year because the room at the Britannia Hotel, our usual venue, was not available.

The Stockport Masonic Guildhall was suggested. Both David Gosling and myself went to have a look at the hall. Although a bit dated, it appeared clean and suitable for our needs.

For those who attended we would like some feedback on what you thought about the venue, the location, the room we were allocated, the buffet lunch and any other matter you feel we need to address if we hold any further meetings at this venue.

We appreciate we had sound problems with those attending the meeting online. These will be sorted if we hold any further meetings at the Guildhall.

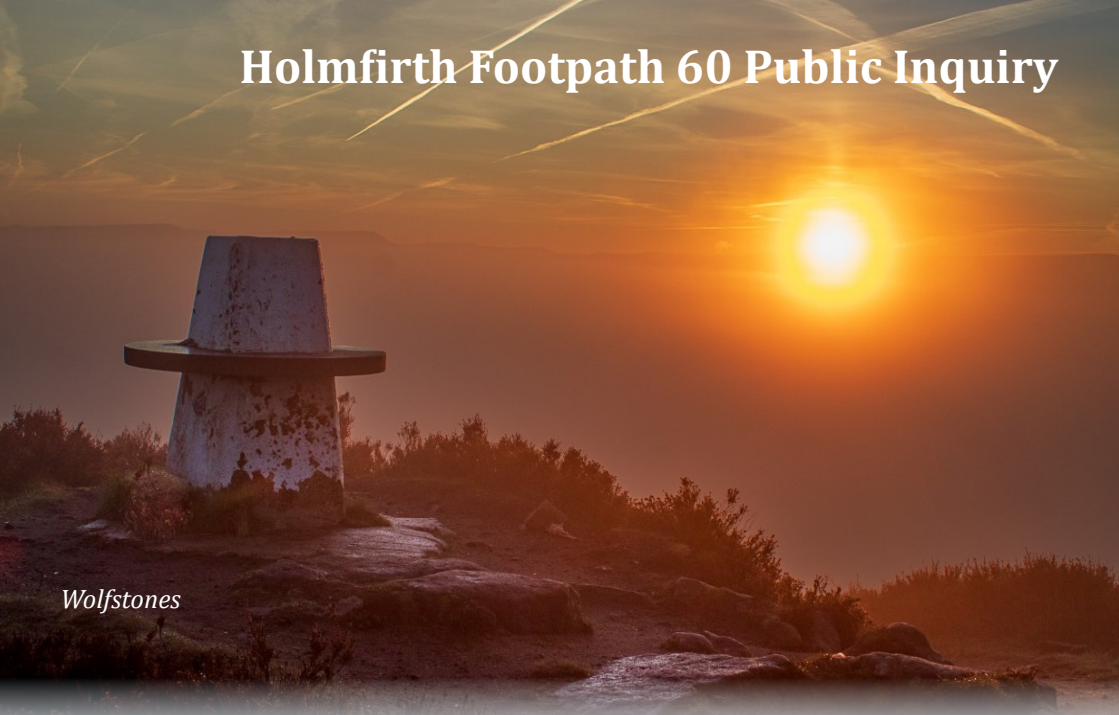
Please email me at treasurer@pnfs.org.uk.



Waymark

The society recently emailed its new *Waymark* newsletter to all members for whom we have an email address. If you didn't receive a copy please email the membership secretary at membership@pnfs.org.uk with your contact details to ensure that you receive future newsletters. *Waymark* can be viewed online at pnfs.org.uk/waymark.

Holmfirth Footpath 60 Public Inquiry



Wolfstones

In the summer 2020 edition of *Signpost* I wrote about the proposed diversion of Holmfirth footpath 60 under s257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The diversion related to an approved planning permission which required diversion of FP60 to be implemented. At the time Peak and Northern, along with other objectors, had argued against the diversion when it was considered by the Kirklees Planning Committee. For the first time in nearly 20 years committee members voted against the officer recommendation and refused to grant authority for a diversion order. They accepted objectors' arguments that the loss of this popular, direct footpath access to Wolfstone heights (a local beauty spot) outweighed any of the developments benefits. It seemed we had been successful but had we?

By August of 2020 a second application under s247 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 was advertised. The Department of Transport make these orders which are usually associated with developments of a more strategic nature such as industry, housing, roads and so on. The s247 process differs in a number of ways to the more familiar s257 orders associated with planning permissions affecting rights of way. The most worrying aspect is that user group or public objections to the proposal do not necessarily result in a public inquiry. For this to happen Kirklees Council or the Holme Valley Parish Council had to object to the draft order. There seemed to be a real threat here that the s247 order would be confirmed without the level of scrutiny afforded by a public inquiry. Following representations by Peak and Northern and others both Kirklees and the Parish Council objected to the draft order and so a public inquiry was held in August 2021.

The Peak and Northern objection to the s247 order was the same as that to the s257 proposal. For both types of order there are two criteria that must be met. Firstly, that a planning permission exists and it is necessary to stop up or divert a public right of way for the development to go ahead. This is known as the necessity test and we had no

grounds to object on this basis. Secondly, there is the merits test. The inspector has discretion as to whether to confirm the order and may refuse to do so. In coming to a decision an inspector is obliged to take into account any significant disadvantages or losses to the public flowing from the diversion/stopping up. Any such disadvantages must be weighed against the countervailing advantages to the public or private individuals of the development and a decision made.

Our objection was that the merits test was not met as FP60 was the only direct off road public access to Wolfstone Heights, a popular local beauty spot. The loss of this amenity was significant and not outweighed by the benefits of the development which consisted of parking spaces and landscaping.

The inquiry itself was a fractious affair which took up 5 days. Despite the simplicity of our objection I was cross examined for over 3 hours! Kirklees Council had a very competent advocate but the only witness they called (a definitive map officer) had no previous involvement with the case. However, Holmfirth Walkers Are Welcome and Holmfirth Harriers along with several members of the public acquitted themselves very well and it was clear from their evidence that FP60 was both well used and valued locally. The inspector acknowledged in his report that the public objections to the order were the basis of his decision.

The inspector recommended that the order not be confirmed and the Secretary of State subsequently declined to confirm the order on the grounds that the merits test had not been met. The inspectors report can be found here https://pathwatch.files.wordpress.com/2022/03/yh4337_not_made_inspectors_report-1.pdf

Photographs by author

Andrew Leader, Courts and Inquiries Officer



View from Holmfirth

Kirklees - Help Wanted With Lost Paths

Terry Norris, Consultations and Orders Team Leader, has drawn attention to Kirklees Council's appeal for help in uncovering lost footpaths, saying it was very pleasing to read about the activities of their employees. Their website - <https://kirkleestogether.co.uk/2022/04/22/help-us-uncover-lost-footpaths/> - has an interactive map which is very useful to public reporting PROW problems.

The website states says they need help to inform them about any footpaths that may be blocked or overgrown. "By letting us know you will help us to improve your rights of way and access to amenities. The call is going out across Kirklees after an overgrown footpath that lay hidden for about 15 years was uncovered by two of our Environmental Rangers." One of them, Lucy was on one of her litter picking rounds around Kilner Bank, Bradley Mills, when something caught her eye. She says "I was on my normal rounds one day and spotted what looked like the entrance to something hidden among the brambles, shrubs and undergrowth. I asked some of the locals about it, and they told me that there was a path underneath it all, but it had not seen the light of day for years ... I reported it and got approval for my fellow Ranger Rebecca to help me to clear it. I'm personally delighted with the outcome. We had no idea just what lay under it all and to have it back in use is just great. It's like bringing a bit of Huddersfield's history back to life as it's clearly a very old footpath".

The footpath runs between Bradley Mills Road and Kilner Bank and is believed to be Huddersfield 102/10 or 103/10. It took Lucy and Rebecca two full days to cut back the brambles, shrubs and undergrowth. They then removed about half a ton of mud to grub out the concrete steps on the 250-foot-long path. Kirkless Council has recently made it possible for residents to look up footpaths, bridleways, and byways on the website's interactive map. The map allows residents to put in a postcode or address and find any paths in the area. There are nearly 1,900 PROWs in Kirklees.

Cattle and Walkers

I read with interest the articles in the winter edition of *Signpost* about David Gosling's experience with cattle and other articles on this theme. I have generally followed the advice in David's article for passing through a field of cows, but I would like to add this.

I was born and raised on a dairy farm (okay, dairy cows are generally more docile) but both my father and grandfather always carried a stick when handling the cows, both to direct them and for safety. A quick blow to the flank or even to the face of a cow that comes as close as the one David describes, will discourage the animal. Cattle are generally more wary of people carrying sticks and just waving it around can help to keep them away if they come too close.

I carry a normal walking pole on walks, and though this is quite light, it has been useful in self defence against an aggressive dog recently, when it was the only thing between the dog and getting bitten. I would recommend all inspectors - in fact all walkers - to carry a walking pole or something similar.

Mike Nelms, Footpath Inspector



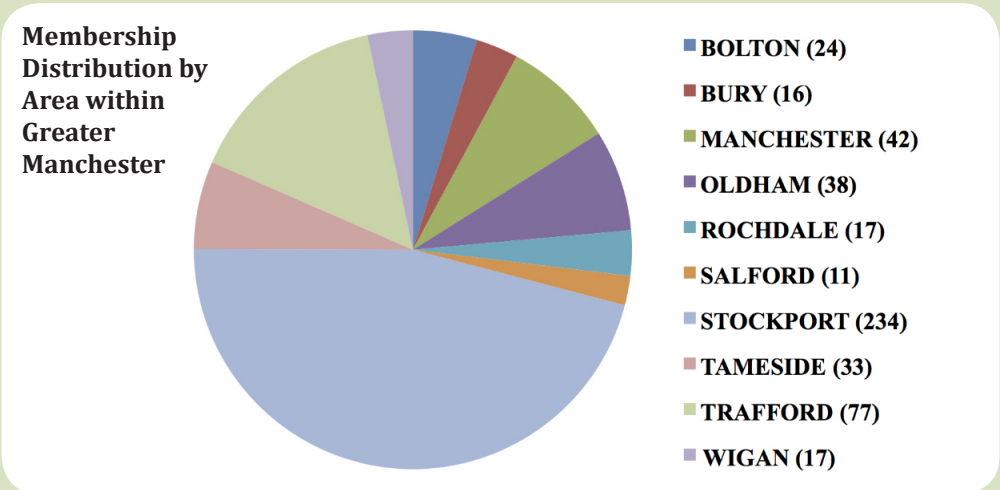
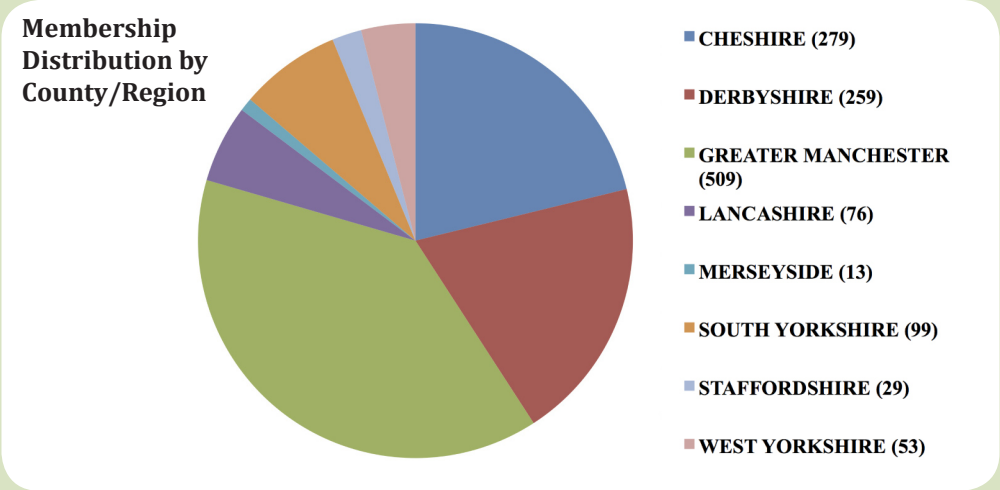
Welcome to the first of a new series of articles. Membership is at the heart of PNFS: it matters in more ways than one. The subscriptions, donations and legacies that our members make to the society enable us to carry out our important work. This includes erecting new signposts, funding bridges or PRoW improvements and fighting court cases to ensure our rights of access are upheld. The latest Annual Report shows our membership is the highest it has been for many years. In fact since the report was published our 'paid up' membership figure has risen from 1,326 to 1,394. There are a number of reasons for this steady increase. Our secretary, Jenny Allen has been active in recruiting Footpath Inspectors in certain parts of the PNFS patch and she has been ably assisted by Linda Smith and David Gosling. One of the very few positives to come out of the covid-19 pandemic is the dramatic rise in the number of people who now spend time exercising. As a result more people have become aware of our work. Thanks are due to David Morton, our Signpost Officer and his team for all the work that they do to maintain and erect new signposts. They are our 'Silent Ambassadors' and David is determined to find new locations to spread the word of PNFS further afield. It has never been easier to join or indeed renew your membership. This can be done online at pnfs.org.uk/membership or via the more traditional method of completing a form and sending it to me.

Our recent AGM voted unanimously to accept an amendment to the constitution in relation to when subscriptions are due. The old wording didn't take into account that members who pay their subscription by Direct Debit (DD) generally do so on the anniversary of joining the society. The new wording acknowledges this fact and in simple terms states that members' subscriptions are due within a month of when they joined and should be paid within six months. Renewal reminders will be sent out in line with what our constitution now states rather than from the beginning of June onwards. Our treasurer, Paul Easthope has confirmed that our subscription rates will remain unchanged for another year. Despite rising costs across the economy, your subscription is now even better value than before. In recent years, membership benefits have increased to include an extra edition of our *Signpost* magazine with more pages, a new companion e-newsletter titled Waymark, access to our unparalleled Footpath Inspection Database and over the last year a series of online talks about the work of the society and broader related issues.

As I said at the beginning of this article, membership matters, the more members we have the more we can achieve. This thought led me to take a closer look at our membership. Over the last twelve months I have been asking all new members three questions. How old they are, when did they first become aware of PNFS and why have they joined now. I stressed that they didn't have to answer if they would rather not but most people did. Roughly half of all new members tell me that their main reason for joining is because of seeing our signposts. The vast majority are over 60 and most say that they have been aware of PNFS for many years and have finally decided that it is a good time to join, probably because they are approaching retirement and thus have more spare time.

Of course, when people join they already provide key information about themselves, for example about two thirds of our members are male, coincidentally this is also true of

the society’s trustees! As a group we are committed to trying to increase the diversity of our membership in all aspects and I will be writing more this is future articles. Areas of the PNFS patch that have ‘high’ levels of membership may be more effective pursuing our charitable aims, at the very least we should have a loader voice in these places. The two charts below give some insights about our membership. The first shows its distribution across the counties/regions we cover. Greater Manchester has the greatest membership by some distance. The second shows the areas within Greater Manchester and again there is one area much better represented than every other one. I wonder what members think about what the charts show.



As always, please contact me at membership@pnfs.org.uk if you have any questions about membership or other thoughts about the society.
Mel Bale, Membership Secretary, Webmaster and Trustee



Signpost Report

Photograph by Ted Wolfe. S623 on 25 April 2022, with David Morton, at Pyegreave Farm, Langley, near Macclesfield Forest

Since February the total number of signposts has only risen from 554 to 558. Unfortunately, as the weather improved, our contractor John Hodgson was clearing and vacating his farm. In April he has been living in Anglesey, until his new house is available. This has resulted in a backlog of new and old signs in Taylor House garage. I started to reduce it, but then tested positive for Covid-19 and was instructed to rest. On 18 April I tested negative and resumed outdoor work with the help of team members Merrick and Ted. John hopes to be back in late May.

New Signposts February-April

S623 at Pyegreave Farm, Langley with Ted Wolfe.
 S625 at Stretton Hall Farm, Clay Cross with Merrick Iszatt.
 S628 at Dunlea Farm, Onecote with Merrick.
 S630 at Alton, Ashover, also with Merrick's help.

Maintenance and Preparation

Inspected/cleaned B4, S008/028, 252/4/5, 158, 366, 391. S359 inspected by Jane Hodgson following Marsden Moor fire.
 Andy McMullan inspected S284 at Haslingden Grane.
 Retrieved S287 from Turton Moor for re-posting, with help from Graham Fullarton. It is now ready in THG; as is S120 + cross plate for Gun Road, Mellor, after SB&PC
 S450 fallen and reinstated on Caldly Hill by Robin Tutchings (PROW Officer, Wirral)
 S116 fallen and reinstated near Bowstones with Steve Brown.
 S078 repainted, reposted and reinstated at Sir William Rd. above Eyam with Steve Brown.
 Took 631 and 632 back to Anglers Country Park, Wakefield – B. to reinstate.
 S034 at Grindleford Bridge has fallen and will be reinstated with help from DCC and PDNP.

Prospects

Visited sites for new signs 636 at Paythorne, 638 at Bashall Eaves in Ribble Valley and 639 at Appleton, Warrington.

Ordered plates for above plus 637 at Blore, Ashbourne.

Ready in THG : 631 (Winter Hill), 632 (Ault Hucknall), 633/634 (N.Wingfield), 635 (Sett Valley Trail) plus 120 has been refurbished and is ready to return to Gun Road, Mellor.

David Morton, Signpost Officer

Photograph by Norman Rice, member, showing S408 situated at the bottom of Parkin Clough, South of Ladybower dam and East of Win Hill.



Would you like to sponsor a PNFS signpost or suggest a suitable location for a new one?

If so, there are still some signposts available for individual walkers or walking group who would like to have a commemorative plaque to one in return of £375.

The latest list of such signposts can be found in the recent *Waymark* emailed to members.

The previous issue of *Signpost* detailed criteria regarding suggesting locations for new signposts.

Adwick Washlands

RSPB Reserve

This map, which I photographed in April 2022, shows the path network through and around this bird reserve in the River Dearne valley near Barnsley. This area was heavily industrialised in the 19th and 20th centuries, especially the mining industry but now is much restored. The river Dearne flows from its source in West Yorkshire through Barnsley town centre then down to its confluence with the River Don near Conisbrough Castle. The Ordnance Survey only shows the definitive path network. The many permissive paths around and through the reserve don't appear. Therefore, a visitor might benefit from this map. Even if a walker had no real interest in birds, the additional paths are useful to know about when planning a walk. The Adwick Washlands reserve is open to the public and there are no entrance fees, unlike the nearby Old Moor RSPB Reserve which is only for RSPB members unless you pay an entrance fee. Sue and I saw many birds including avocets and redshanks as well as lapwings.

John Harker, Area Officer and Courts and Inquiries Officer, Sheffield



Eckington FP28

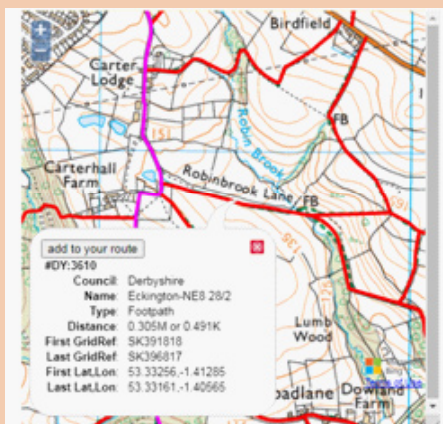
Robinbrook Lane

On 19 April 2022, I led the Society's East Side walk for members east of the Pennines. At one point we walked up Robinbrook Lane near Ridgeway in north-east Derbyshire. To my surprise, it has been almost completely resurfaced. For many years sections of this footpath had been awful underfoot, especially the section in the photo, which is confined between overgrown hedgerows.

It's clear that although the footpath on the west side of the foot-bridge over the Robin Brook has been done, the east side hasn't been dealt with. There has been massive bramble clearance, east of the bridge, presumably to allow vehicle access for the Rangers and their materials, but no surface work as yet. Parish inspector Bill Parke is making enquiries with Derbyshire County Council as to plans for this east side.

Map © Crown copyright 2022 Ordnance Survey. Media 018/22

John Harker, Area Officer NE Derbyshire



No Rambling in USA

I smiled, wryly, when I read Emily Axel's article in the spring edition of *Signpost*. As an American she wrote of her great delight in being able to ramble in the UK. This is so different from the States and I totally understand her delight.

In the 1980s, I worked in Kansa City, USA. It took me a while to settle in and eventually I looked into rambling. To my dismay there was nowhere to ramble : no designated footpaths or rights of way.

However, with a lot of effort and persistence I did discover a walking association, unique, I think, to the States. It was the Volks Walkers, part of Volks Sport Clubs. This walking association was founded post Second World War. Many returning American soldiers from Germany, probably those who had stayed on after the end of conflict, had discovered the joys of walking for pleasure. On their return they organised walking groups called Volks walkers.

I was lucky enough to find a Volks walkers group near to me, in Lenexa, Kansas. There was a programme of walks which I could join. These walks could, in no way, be compared to a ramble but I was pleased to find a walking group.

It was very, very different from rambling. The walks were only short, between two and four miles, usually in suburban settings. En route we might walk across a green area such as a neighbourhood park. Most of the walks were along pleasant residential avenues.

One aspect that caused me some amusement was the dedication of the walkers to wear the latest walking attire. Everyone wore immaculate walking gear, plus a rucksack and a water bottle. Rather different from some of my rambling friends in England, myself included. And we were only walking 4 miles! But the people were friendly and warm and it helped me to make friends outside of work.

I learnt that the Volks walkers had tried to set up a network of Volks walks in Germany and England but I am not sure how successful this was. I wonder if this association has survived. I hope so.

Rita Machin, Member

Volunteers Expenses

At a recent management meeting the Trustees agreed to increase the mileage allowance that volunteers can claim when travelling in their own car on PNFS business to 45p per mile.

Please note that volunteers who claim any expenses can donate it back to the Society if they are taxpayers and gift aid the donation. Thus the Society receives 25% of the valuation of the donation from HMRC.

Contact me on treasurer@pnfs.org.uk for any further information.

Paul Easthope, Treasurer

Give us the foot and the bridle paths

by Hedley Lucas

*Give us the foot and the bridle paths
Across the field and by the stream,
Not the roads, but the quiet ways,
To walk the land of real and dream.*

*Give us the paths to loiter by
About the common and the plain,
Over the moor and through the pass,
And down by the end of the lane.*

*Give us a walker's heritage,
A share of an olden time,
The grass and the wooded tracks,
The winding ways to foot and climb.*

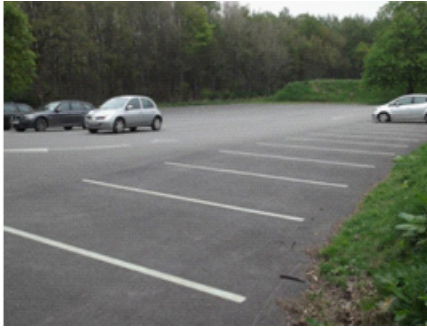
*Give us an England free to stride,
Over the hill and through the vale,
With the sight of beauty beckoning,
As we follow the rambler's trail.*

*Be ours the heart to cherish these,
The soul to keep, the strength to guard,
An English loveliness and peace,
That nothing good be lost or marred.*

From *Homage to Cheshire*, published 1960 by Independent Press Ltd, Memorial Hall, London EC4, to whom the copyright belongs. Thanks to David Gosling for finding this poem.

Thornbridge Hall - A Cautionary Tale

This is a true cautionary tale, so please learn from my mistake. I first inspected FP3 in the civil parish of Great Longstone on 20 July 2020. South of the Monsal Trail (SK199 711), it is in the Thornbridge Estate, and not only comes under the Peak District National Parks Authority, but it is also a Conservation Area for Parklands.



I found a delightful path, bounded on the Thornbridge Hall side by a very tall hedge, and I passed through two tall metal kissing gates, which were typical of deer parks. The last opened out onto a vista of parkland.

Photo shows the current situation at Thornbridge Hall. This sea of tarmac previously a field where sheep etc grazed.

However, when I inspected the same path on 20 January 2022, I was taken aback to see developments which had occurred in the interim. The path was a track, no typical parkland tall gates, indeed a stile to the south. There had been a “construction of driveways, construction of a car park, the laying of hardsurfacing, construction of a building, and the erection of fences, including gateways and stiles, without planning permission” (Peak District National Park ref APP/M9496/C/21/3279072).



Photo shows a zebra crossing along the line where the FP should be. There is now a metal gate for walkers to the left of the five bar gate, which is not on the line of the FP. The FP is to the right, through the grit bin. The zebra crossing implies motorized traffic, a danger.

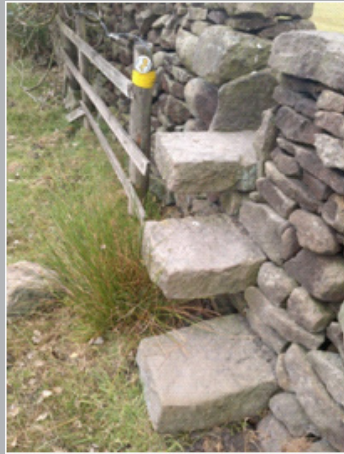
Therein lies my mistake. In my naivety I had assumed that all had been done with planning permission. Not so. The Peak District National Park issued an Enforcement Notice to have the developments taken out, and the original footpath and landscape reinstated. Needless to say, the owner of Thornbridge Hall is appealing, and there will be a hearing in Bakewell sometime this year. So it is now an area dominated by vehicular traffic, tarmac; now an uncomfortable and over-engineered environment. This is an unacceptable and unpleasant character change, especially in a conservation area.

Please fellow inspectors, if you come across such a cataclysm on your footpaths, don't assume planning permission has been given. Report it immediately to your Highways Authority and PNFS.

Latest update: The Public Inquiry due to start in Bakewell on 26 April has now been postponed due to the appellant's barrister being unable to attend due to illness. The cynic in me says how convenient that is for Thornbridge Hall as they can continue to use their illegal driveway and car park well into the summer.

Ann Haden, Footpath Inspector

Getting
on the
Right
Side

On Foulridge FP21a, Pendle, I came across this helpful, if unusual, waymark. It certainly told me which side of the wall I should be walking on. If only there were more markers like this one so we would not go round the twist by walking on the wrong side of a boundary. It's annoying when I find myself on the wrong side of a wall or fence after walking some distance and there's no exit, meaning I have retrace my footsteps.

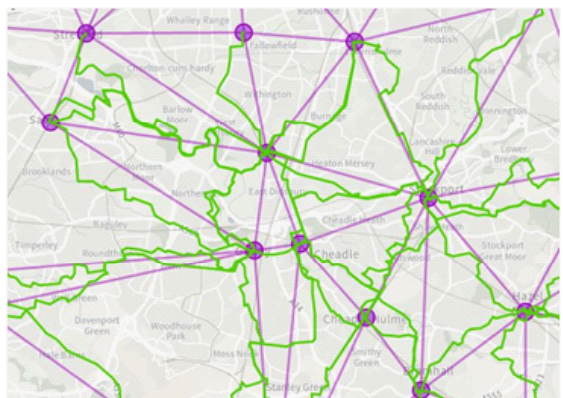
Shirley M Addy, Editor, Footpath Inspector and Courts and Inquiries Officer

Slow Ways Update

Much is happening with Slow Ways but activity is located in distinct locations as can be seen on the Slow Ways progress map. The stronghold of PNFS around the NW and Peak District is somewhat lacking progress so PNFS members are invited to go out and take a look. A walk of a Slow Way with three people who all submit a positive review will verify the paths. This will give others the confidence to use the route, it's a good way for PNFS members to protect and publicise the PROW network. If the route passes our signs then make sure you post a picture of it in the review then PNFS and Slow Ways benefit.

The green lines on the map show the routes. A recent urban link I walked is [https://beta.slowways.org/SlowWay/Ilknot - Nottingham city centre to Ilkeston](https://beta.slowways.org/SlowWay/Ilknot-Nottingham-city-centre-to-Ilkeston) (Derbyshire) town centre.

Ken Brockway, Footpath Inspector



Ramsgreave's PNFS Improvement Grant

Last year I wrote a little piece for this magazine describing the challenges of trying to arrange a repair to a collapsed wall blocking a path from a Parish Councillor's perspective. Inspired by our success and the positive reaction from our residents to even that minor repair we decided to tackle the terrible state of the same footpath further down where it had become severely eroded and walking it carried a high risk of a sprained ankle.

Cutting the ribbon



The first task was to find out what would be involved and of course the cost. I tracked down a contractor who had done work for a neighbouring parish and knew the PROW standards. He gave me a quote for £3000 and his requirements regarding access to the path for machinery and storing materials. As I am a member of PNFS I decided to apply for a grant, encouraged by my local PNFS footpaths inspector. All the other potential funders wanted part-funding and as a tiny Parish Council we simply don't have funds to spend on PROW, we also have a policy not to spend our residents' money on PROW repairs as by rights it should be the landowner who pays. However, we are happy to apply for grant income to repair PROWs if we know that the landowner's circumstances mean they are unlikely to carry out maintenance.

The resurfaced path and new gate



The application form for PNFS was refreshingly simple, they were happy with one quote which meant I was not chasing contractors for quotes for weeks on end. They responded very quickly, inspected the path for themselves and made the further suggestion we replace the wooden stile with a steel kissing gate. I added that into the application and they agreed to fund it. We were absolutely delighted with this verdict. I

negotiated access for the contractor with the landowner and the work was carried out over two weeks in April 2022. PNFS inspected the work, paid the bill and installed their sign.

The improvements have already made a huge difference. The replacement of the stile meant a short 2 km circular walk was possible through the fields of our parish with no stiles at all, making it more accessible to residents. We had lots of positive feedback on our facebook page and even some people walking the path for the first time.

Always on the look out for an excuse to celebrate our achievements, we held a community picnic on the Mayday bank holiday (with the permission of the landowner of course ...) Local children cut a ribbon and declared the gate officially open! We had tea and cakes in the field and even a game of rounders. We hope this might become a regular event and the gate is now known as the ‘picnic gate’.

This success led us to get quotes for our other two paths that are in need of repair and we have a grant application to other funders lined up for later this year. Our local PROW team, who are supportive but under-resourced, were pleased to hear about our achievements and are using us as an example for other parishes to encourage them to consider external funding (and to organise picnics!).



Celebratory picnic in the field



The path before resurfacing



The previous stile

Kathryn Berzins, Chair, Ramsgreave Parish Council, Ribble Valley

Where are the horses supposed to go?

Tyldesley BW30 is a cobblestone bridleway - for horses, really? - that is 105 metres long and comes from a housing estate and ends at a gate (*see photo*). On the other side of the gate are footpaths 29 and 40. At the top of the hill there are great views of Rivington and the surrounding areas which I am sure walkers and horses would appreciate.

The gap between BW30 and FP29 is 23 cm or nine inches wide and was part of a recent health walk. I was the back marker and watched one of the group having to take their coat off to get through the gap! I had reported this gap to Wigan on 31 April 2021 and they said that they would look at it. Today - 13 April 2022 - I have again reported it to Wigan. So although it may not concern us but at the gate where are the horses supposed to go?
Geoff Jones, Courts and Inquiries Officer



Parish Councils

Does your parish council do any maintenance on the public rights of way in your area?

Parish councils interested in safeguarding and improving them have available to them a wide range of powers which give them a strong position to protect this precious heritage. They also have access to grants for improving footpaths and bridleways in their areas from Highways Authorities, boroughs or PNFS's Improvement Fund.

The PNFS's website has now set up a webpage for Parish Councils. It advises them of their powers and how to obtain grants. There are also examples of some excellent work on public rights of ways done by parish councils. Go to pnfs.org.uk/parish-councils.

Why don't you contact your own parish council and tell them about the PNFS?

For more information about the PNFS's Improvement Fund go to pnfs.org.uk/improvements.

Path Checker App

The Society now has its very own smart phone app called Path Checker. Our readers might remember my piece about the Ethels and the associated Ethel Ready app in the last issue of *Signpost*. I tracked down the developer of the app, Doug Colton and asked him if he could be tempted to develop something similar for PNFS. To my great surprise, Doug sent me a very enthusiastic reply. A few more emails followed and within a couple of days I received a special link which enabled me to install a prototype of the app on my phone. It was almost exactly as I had envisaged and it only needed a couple of minor changes to get it working perfectly.

Path Checker is free and can be downloaded from both the App Store and Google Play. It has three features. By default it shows the user's grid reference and allows them to enter details of an issue that they have just encountered. An existing or new photograph can be selected and then all the details can be emailed to the society by pressing a Submit button. The other two features are available via the 'Map' and 'PNFS' icons at the bottom of the screen. 'Map' shows the society's signposts and bridges via standard location icons. Selecting an icon shows a photograph of the signpost/bridge along with its details. 'PNFS' provides three links to the society's website, 'Join Us', 'Support Us' and 'About Us'.

Our new app simplifies the reporting of an issue, so we would now recommend that people use it instead of the OS Locate app. Why not download it now and try it out? Tell your friends and family about it as well. Who knows it might even encourage them to join the society? I'd like to say a huge thank you to Doug for developing such an excellent app.

Mel Bale, Trustee, Membership Secretary and Webmaster

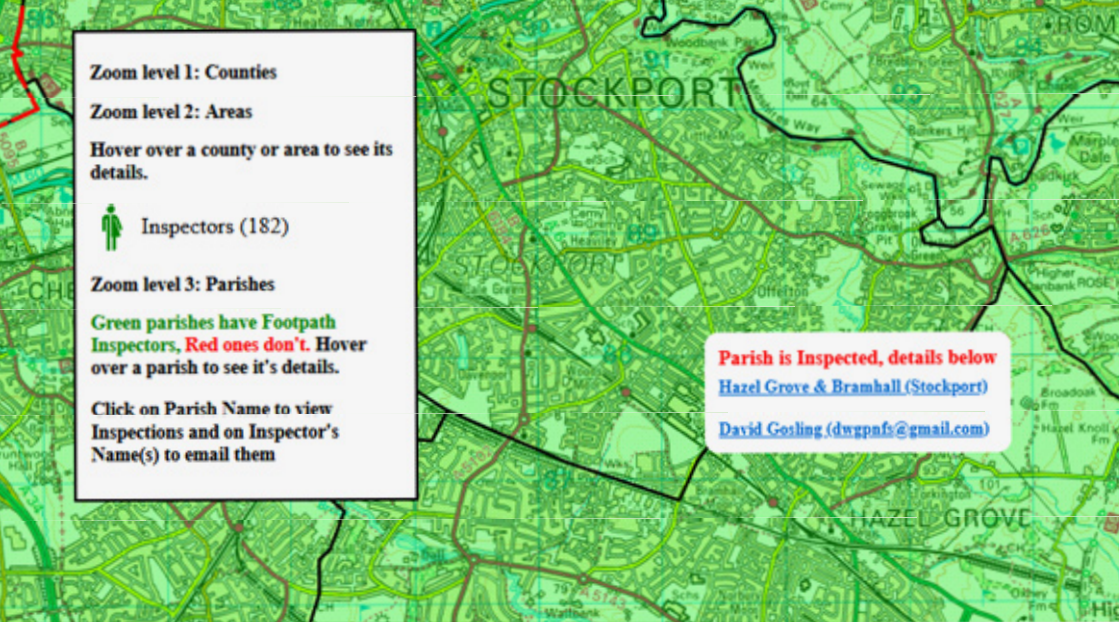


PNFS Online Talks

The monthly talks programme has been well-attended by members, and an appreciated innovation. All the talks are available on the PNFS Channel on YouTube. There is a link to it on pnfs.org.uk - just click on the icon.

After David Gosling's talk in May on 'The Kinder Trespass – challenging the myths', there will be a break in the talks programme over the summer. A new series will start in September. The programme will be announced when speakers have been confirmed.

If anyone has suggestions for speakers, please contact me on dwgpnfs@gmail.com.



Zoom level 1: Counties

Zoom level 2: Areas

Hover over a county or area to see its details.



Inspectors (182)

Zoom level 3: Parishes

Green parishes have Footpath Inspectors, Red ones don't. Hover over a parish to see its details.

Click on Parish Name to view Inspections and on Inspector's Name(s) to email them

Parish is Inspected, details below

[Hazel Grove & Bramhall \(Stockport\)](#)

[David Gosling \(dwgpnfs@gmail.com\)](mailto:David.Gosling@dwgpnfs@gmail.com)

PNFS Website - Inspectors' Information

You may have noticed that we did not publish the list of parishes with inspectors in this year's Annual Report. This is because a map showing all the parishes where PNFS has a footpath inspector is now available on the PNFS website. You are able to see at a glance whether a parish has an inspector, who it is and an email address if you need to contact the inspector about a footpath.

You can also search for a parish via the Highway Authority, or you can search for an inspector by his/her first name or last name.

Thanks to the excellent work of Mel Bale, our webmaster, the data is linked to the administration of the Footpath Inspections Database (FID), so it is always up-to-date.

You can find this information in the Volunteers Area under the tab 'Inspectors Information'. The Volunteers Area is password protected, so you need a log-in and password. These are the same as for the FID if you have already been given a username and password. If not, you can request access by email to webmaster@pnfs.org.uk.

If you are not already a footpath inspector you will be able to see on the map where you could assist the work of the Society by volunteering to inspect a 'vacant' parish. The Society relies on its footpath inspectors to monitor footpaths in our region, so please consider doing this and make your contribution to keeping rights of way open for all walkers.

David Gosling, Footpath Inspection Co-ordinator

Obituary: Jack Burling (1935-2022)

Jack Burling was born in Parkgate, Rotherham. Growing up as an only child, he would take his neighbours' dogs for long walks in the local countryside, training them to obey his every command so there were no unruly dogs to worry livestock or game birds. Important considerations were given that much local land was still owned by the 'Big House' ie Wentworth Woodhouse, and Jack spent his youth roaming the area, dodging estate gamekeepers. I'm convinced that his inclination to walk where he thought responsible walkers should be allowed to walk by law arose at this formative period of his life.

As a teenager in post-war Rotherham he became an apprentice lathe turner before getting called-up for National Service. Here he demonstrated that singularity of purpose and character that marked his life throughout. The pressure to conform in that era must have been overwhelming, but he would not agree to bear arms and declared himself a conscientious objector. Tried and sentenced to prison, he spent time in Strangeways, where ex-military warders and prisoners gave him a hard time. An appeal against his sentence, supported by a Quaker funded solicitor, saw him given the alternatives of doing forestry work or health service work. He chose the latter and never regretted it. His met his future wife Eva, who was a nurse, and spent the rest of his working life in the NHS.

His love of the countryside and walking saw he and Eva join in early Ramblers Association public rambles in Sheffield. Drawn in to voluntary work as we often are, his passion for public footpaths and protecting the countryside manifested itself quickly. Back then, footpath work in this neck of the woods was left to PNFS. The RA strangely was not active in path work back then, not in South Yorkshire anyway. He was appointed a PNFS inspector from an affiliated group as the Society's inspectors were at that time. However, he quickly became dissatisfied by the Greater Manchester-centric slant that he felt led PNFS to ignore footpath issues from 'over there' in Yorkshire. This led him to suggest the Sheffield Area of the RA should establish its own Footpath Committee, of which he became its first Footpaths Secretary. He covered a territory from the upper Derwent in the west, to Goole in the east.

Members with any knowledge of PNFS history will need no introduction to the name Donald Lee. With the title of Diversions and Closures Officer, Don's passion for footpaths matched, maybe even exceeded, Jack's. They were a match made in Heaven (or Hell if you were a landowner obstructing a path or wanting it diverted, or a hapless council employee whose knowledge of highway law could be written on a matchbox lid compared to theirs). For many years, they were the Batman and Robin of many a public inquiry, Don batting for PNFS and Jack for the RA. I heard countless stories from Jack, often in a pub after a RA committee meeting or on a ramble or site visit, about their exploits in this or that council chamber or public inquiry room (when I say countless, I do mean countless, repeated time and time again, like a Chelsea Pensioner recounting battles of long ago that he had fought in. I never minded, as I was learning so much at the elbow of a man I admired so much). All this and he was working permanent night shifts, four nights per week for over 30 years at Lodge Moor Hospital.

I could tell you of the many public rights of way that he helped to save from closure, or a bad diversion or an obstruction. Of the hundreds (yes, hundreds) of paths he helped to get added to the Definitive Maps of Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley and Derbyshire. When Sheffield drew up its first Definitive Map in the 1970s, having been exempt from the 1949 legislation as a county borough, he spent hundreds of hours gathering witnesses and representing the RA at the public inquiry called to resolve objections to the Draft Map.

It went on for weeks, and Jack was there day after day, working at night and grabbing what sleep he could, until the strain made him ill.

Jack confided in me about the hush-hush negotiations he had had with the late Duke of Devonshire about claimed paths on Devonshire Estate land that led to many being accepted, without objections being made at magistrates' court. He spoke of his time spent on the then National Executive Committee of the RA, and of him travelling all the way from Cornwall, after he and Eva had moved there in 2004, just to give user evidence at a public inquiry in Rotherham which helped us get a footpath added to the Definitive Map. He was active in Cornwall Ramblers as well, almost in spite of himself such was the parlous state of the path network away from the Coast Path. When he moved back to Sheffield in 2014, his first thought was to join me on the Society's Managing Committee, and Courts and Inquiries Committee, and becoming a trustee for a while.

All this was but a facet of a life well lived. He was a union shop steward in the NHS representing his members in many work related disputes and hearings. He often knew the NHS Rulebook (called the "Whitley Council Rules") better than hospital management and used it to his members' advantage. So impressed was his union's leadership that they offered him the chance to go to Ruskin College Oxford and then on graduation, a salaried union job, but he declined as it might mean a job far away from his roots.

He was an active member of CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire. He knew and worked with Ethel and Gerald Haythornthwaites, eventually becoming branch chairman and being introduced to the Queen. He knew all the big names of the footpath and access movement: Alan Mattingly, John Trevelyan, Janet Davis, John Riddall, Leslie Meadowcroft, Derek Taylor, Jerry Pearlman, William Bunting, Terry Howard and Kate Ashbrook to name a few. Along with others, he was a founder member in 1982 of SCAM (Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorland). He was credited by many of those who are in the know with influencing the national Ramblers' Association hierarchy to push much harder for the "Right to Roam" legislation, the fruits of which we enjoy today.

It was the late John Riddall, barrister and later co-author of the 'Blue Book', the bible of the public rights of way practitioner, who was inspired to get involved in rights of way work when he witnessed Jack and Don Lee in action at a public inquiry in the Peak District. They were opposing a footpath diversion at Brough near Hope, and John was amazed that lay people could present a case involving complex highway law as good, if not better, than a qualified solicitor (that footpath remains as it was to this day, as Jack and Don won the case).

I will finish on a lighter note. One day, many years ago, Jack and I were discussing what would happen after we died. Why that topic, I cannot remember now, but I said that I had already drafted his eulogy and I knew what would happen to him. He would arrive at the Pearly Gates and St Peter would ask by what right he deserved entry. Jack would reply that unless St Peter had authorisation from the Highway Authority for those gates, or they were a recorded limitation when the path was dedicated, then they were an illegal obstruction of the highway. He would be seeking their removal as soon as possible. Or if St Peter claimed that it wasn't a public right of way, he would seek user evidence to prove, on the balance of probabilities that it was. As an atheist, Jack chuckled at that. I like to think that's where he is now, out doing what he loved, rambling and finding problems to resolve. Attending committee meetings and sitting in the pub afterwards reminiscing. Let me buy you a drink Jack, my dearest friend. You have more than earned it.

John Harker, Courts & Inquiries Officer for Sheffield, Rotherham, Doncaster, Stockport, Wakefield, Bradford and Leeds



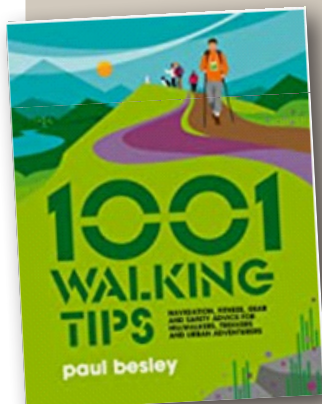
Book Reviews

Paul Besley is a very experienced writer and hillwalker. He has worked as a voluntary ranger for the Peak District National Park, is a member of the Woodhead Mountain Rescue Team and a walking guide. His two books reviewed here are very different in style and content.

1001 Walking Tips: Navigation, Fitness, Gear and Safety Advice for Hillwalkers, Trekkers and Urban Adventurers

Published by Vertebrate Publishing Sheffield, 2022, 148pp, £25

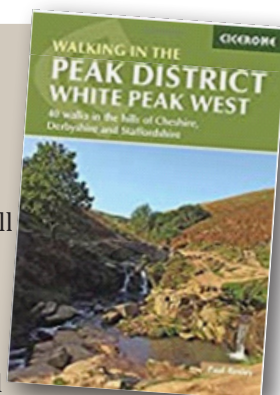
This book is full of useful information relating to walking. For the many hundreds of people who discovered the benefits of being outdoors during the pandemic it would make a superb primer. Information is clearly presented, colour photographs are used through out and key points are highlighted in green. For the more experienced walker it provides useful reminders and tips including what to do when faced with inquisitive cattle. Topics covered include basic kit, staying safe, long distance walks, and different walking environments including urban areas. This is a book to read and enjoy before hitting the hills and it's cost, while on the expensive side, is according to the author, the equivalent of two packets of cigarettes! Given the quality of the publishing this is good value and the book would make an ideal present for someone keen to learn more about hill walking.



Walking in the Peak District: White Peak West

Published by Cicerone, 218pp £12.95

Cicerone is highly regarded as publishers of comprehensive and excellent walking guides and this is no exception. With its focus on the western section of the Peak District, the author details forty walks in the area bordered by Glossop to the north, Bakewell to the east, Ashbourne to the south and Macclesfield to the west. These are then sub-divided into the Northern and Southern sections. Each walk is set out in the 'Cicerone' style with a brief outline of the walk, a paragraph on the general area and an OS map extract highlighting the route. Points of interest are included making the text an enjoyable exploration of the countryside. All but 2 of the walks are covered by the OL24 map. Two walk near Castleton are on the OL1 map.



Pauline Williams, Member

A PNFS Long Walk

In March 2022, I led the monthly Long Walk from Hathersage to Grindleford in the Peak District. My aim was to show members some parts of Sheffield that are within the Park boundary, one being Carl Wark which is allegedly an Iron Age hillfort above the Burbage valley within the city boundary. (Sheffield is the only city in the UK with two such structures within its boundaries. Wincobank Hillfort above the Meadowhall shopping centre in the Don valley is the other.)



Another feature on the walk was the abandoned 1758-1812 turnpike called Houndkirk Road, built to improve communications between Sheffield, Buxton and Manchester. We saw a re-erected milestone that had been removed by the Home Guard. The next thing I wanted to show the other 9 people who came was the footpath that PNFS paid to have improved with stone slabs recycled from demolished textile mills laid to improve the surface (see photo above). This was on Blacka Moor Nature Reserve. The Society paid £10,000 for the slabs to be helicoptered in and laid by experts from the National Trust. Sheffield Council who are the landowners, and the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) also chipped in some money, but ours was the lion's share and without it, the work could not have gone ahead. In return, we required the footpath to be dedicated as public and

added to the Definitive Map and Statement (DM&S), which it has been, as Sheffield FP629. We also funded some signage on the Nature Reserve, which is part of a Dark Peak SSSI. The signage had to fit in to the style of signage already present on the Reserve, hence they aren't our usual square green metal ones. See photographs.



Finally, I wanted to tell the attendees about an historic footpath case the Society was involved in during its formative years, that took place in 1912. A new posh housing development took place pre Great War on the hill above Grindleford station. The railway line from Sheffield through the Hope Valley had only opened in 1896 when the Totley Tunnel, second longest in the country, had been finished. It linked Sheffield to Manchester via Chinley, to add to the existing link between the two via Woodhead which had opened in the 1840s.

The attraction of being able to commute into Sheffield or Manchester from an upmarket house in the countryside attracted wealthy buyers like the Sheffield steel baron, Samuel Osborn and other leading businessmen of their day. As the developer, Mr. Maynard built the estate and road layout and what is now the Maynard Arms pub at the station entrance, he blocked a long established historic packhorse way and footpath that linked Sheffield to the Derwent valley. No such thing as a DM&S to safeguard paths back then.

Local residents and walking groups like PNFS were very angry and one resident, James Outram, whose family leased and worked a local quarry, continued to use the path as best they could. Until Maynard took out a court injunction to stop him allegedly trespassing on land that he owned. Outram decided to challenge the injunction in court. A risky business because if you lost, you had all your opponents legal costs to pay as well as your own.



PNFS assisted through GHB Ward who was our local (and only) inspector back then east of the Pennines. He had extensive historic and personal knowledge of the route's history as a packhorse road across the moors between Sheffield and the Derwent valley. Outram called many witnesses who attested to their personal use of the way going back in some cases, through fathers and grandfathers, into the 1820s. Outram himself used it to access his family's quarry on White Edge Moor when, as a boy, he would take his father's meals there using the path.

To cut an even longer story shorter, on 5 July 1912, the judge found in favour of Outram, the defendant, and lifted the injunction. In effect, saying that the way was a public way that people had a right to use. There was much rejoicing in Grindleford village and a large group went to meet Outram at the station with a hired conveyance to bring him home. However, they misjudged the train times and Outram was halfway down the road from the station to Grindleford before they met him.

The carriage was pulled around the village by his supporters, and a large crowd gathered on the village green where there was: "more cheering and handshaking" according to a local newspaper report. Outram adjourned to the pub. The following day, Outram led a procession to rewalk the way. They pulled down a wall erected by Samuel Osborn, and remarked the way with stakes. The Grindleford Brass band was to have led them, but some band members decided that it was injudicious to take sides in the dispute, and declined to take part, so that part of the celebration was dropped.

It was to some extent, a pyrrhic victory. The old packhorse route was split up through the estate into a series of gennels between the new houses, not even in a straight line. For some reason I've yet to find out, the 1949 DM&S legislation failed to record the historic status of the route as a public bridleway and it appears now, as a series of disconnected footpaths on the DM&S, ending on the main road with a PNFS signpost and a date on it of 5 July 1912, the date of the judge's ruling. Almost certainly the court case victory led to the erection of the signpost to defend its public status and encourage use. Maybe in the interval between 1912 and the 1950s, memory of the case had faded, and since there were few horseriders around then, compared to now, nobody pushed for bridleway status since no one on horseback could get through the narrow gennels that the route had become. The 2026 cut off date would have eliminated all possibility of claiming bridleway status on historic evidence, but that has changed recently and maybe the horseriding bodies might take up the case of its historic status.

*John Harker,
Area Officer and
Courts and
Inquiries Officer,
Sheffield*



Definitive Map Modification Orders

With the increase in submissions of Definitive Map Modification Order applications the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum are investigating a way to prioritise the applications. A substantial number of DMMO applications were made in 2003-6 by recreational motor vehicle users for byways open to all traffic. Some of these applications have not yet been determined or concluded by Derbyshire County Council.

The yearly average for the ten years 2007 to 2017 was ten applications but since then the submission rate has climbed to an average of fifty in the last three years. While some of these are for restricted byway the majority are split equally between bridleway and footpath applications. The average number of determined and concluded cases per year since 2005 is 19.5. This means that the Council is currently determining and concluding fewer applications than it is receiving. The number of applications waiting to be determined at the end of 2021 was 246. Not all determinations are successful and DMMOs are not progressed. In the 16 years since 2005, the Council has made 207 DMMOs, an average of 12.9 per year. In 2018 it made 17, but since then its rate of making has dropped to 5 per year in 2020 and 2021.

The application register shows that there are currently 23 applications which have been determined but where the order has not yet been made. Two priority lists have been prepared, one is for the making of the orders on applications that have been determined by the Council and the other is for applications that have yet to be considered and determined. The lists are realistic because they offer numbers that are in line with past performance of processing. The lists include a number of footpath applications submitted by Peak and Northern Footpaths Society so we hope that DCC consider the lists and we look forward to seeing progress on our applications during 2022. My thanks go to Diana Mallinson, Access and Bridleways Officer (Research) BHS Derbyshire, for providing the information used in this article.

Ken Brockway (Derbyshire DMMO research)

PNFS BADGES

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

Send your order with payment to the Treasurer at Peak and Northern Footpaths Society, 23 Turncroft Lane, Stockport SK1 4AB. Alternatively order online treasurer@pnfs.org.uk.

A **cloth rucksack badge** is also available for £3 including p&p. Ordering details are as above.





Solving Salesbury's PROW Problems



PNFS has seven parish councils in the Ribble Valley as affiliated members and I believe they joined as a result of an email I sent in late 2020 to all parish councils in this borough, of which I am footpath inspector, informing them of the Society's Improvements Fund. I also sent lists of faults in their parishes to those who responded to my email.

During the last twelve months, several of them have made efforts to sort out some of the numerous problems that beset public rights of ways in their parish. In 2016, I reported to the Lancashire County Council about a signpost next to a Chinese restaurant being faded on one side and entirely painted over in white. Recently Councillor Maggy Howells of Salesbury Parish Council transformed it with bright green paint and a white walking man (see photograph). I wish I had known of her artistic talents much sooner!

She has also solved a gate problem at Sykes Farm whose tenants are not keen on keeping their gates open because they believe that easy access allowed a vagrant to break in and take up residence for several nights in their barn and caravan. To help maintain good relationships with farmers, she has produced some 3-inch wide wooden waymarks to help keep people from wandering into fields that have no PROWs. The larger of these attractive waymarks show the path number, a rambler's boot, arrow, and a few words (see photographs).

Lastly, Maggy has contacted the landowner regarding a stile which has almost vanished into a stream, but which I reported to the LCC as being damaged six years ago, though it was climbable with much difficulty. At long last, the landowner is now looking at this fault and I look forward to hearing from Maggy that this fault and others have been solved.

Salesbury Parish Council is to be congratulated on having such an enthusiastic and energetic councillor. I wish that more parish councils showed more interest in the public rights of way in their areas. There's much they can do with grants from LCC or PNFS or by liaising with landowners.

If any inspector wishes to contact their parish council regarding footpath problems, there is a webpage on pnfs.org.uk for parish councils that gives useful information *Shirley M Addy, Editor, Footpath Inspector, and Courts and Inquiries Officer*

RAMBLING PIONEERS IN THE MANCHESTER JEWISH COMMUNITY - Part One

This is an edited version of an article previously published in *Shemot*, the journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain

Introduction

Abraham probably became the first Jewish long distance walker when he travelled from the city of Ur to the land of Canaan. He was joined many generations later by Moses who walked the Children of Israel out of Egypt. What is less well recorded is that the passion for walking was continued, thousands of years later, by members of the Jewish community of Manchester. That tradition is continued in the community today by movements such as the Scouts and Guides, the Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade and the Pennine Wayfarers Rambling Club which has been operating since 1969.

The Jewish Lads Brigade was established in London in 1895 and three years later a battalion, comprising five companies, was opened in Manchester. Modelled closely on the Boys Brigade, the JLB aimed to anglicise the sons of immigrants. Its activities included camping and cycling though historical sources do not refer specifically to rambling or hiking. The Scout movement was founded in 1907 and two years later the Manchester Battalion of the JLB opened a Scout Troop under the leadership of Alex Jacobs. By 1911 the Troop comprised 20 boys and leaders. From the outset Scouting laid great emphasis on outdoor life and skills, including navigation. In 1904 a Sephardi synagogue was established in Mauldeth Road in South Manchester, and it formed the Withington Literary and Social Society in 1916 to cater for an age range of 17 upwards. The Society arranged rambles during the summer months. A Girl Guide Company was formed in 1926 with Miss Lapin as the Captain and it met under the auspices of the Synagogue. A Jewish Scout Troop was formed shortly afterwards. In May 1920, the 'International Rambling Association held its first ramble on the 16th of this month and also changed its name to the Manchester Jewish Rambling Society'. It can be noted that rambling was enjoyed by some young refugees from Germany.

Despite what has been stated above, hiking was favoured not only by the establishment. In her PhD thesis, 'Nonconformity in the Manchester Jewish Community', Ros Livshin draws heavily on oral testimonies which have been lodged at the Manchester Jewish Museum. She notes that rambling was a very popular activity amongst the Jewish working class and the unemployed, since this was an activity they could afford. At the time Manchester was served by a very good rail network with direct lines to the Peak District and the northern towns like Bolton. David Dee, an Associate Professor and Reader in Modern History at De Montfort University, has written several regarding sport and the Anglo Jewish community. In the context of Manchester, he also draws on the oral testimonies held at the city's Jewish Museum and also at the Working Class Movement Library in Manchester. A useful historical background is provided by in his paper 'Wandering Jews?' in which he considers the Jewish communities of London and Manchester. He explores 'the link between rambling, camping and cycling offered by socialist and communist groups and the changing nature of contemporary Jewishness'. In so doing he describes the activities of the Clarion Cycling Club (founded in 1895), the Young Communist League and The

British Workers' Sports Federation, noting that the last two of these groups were two subsidiary movements of the Communist Party of Great Britain. He also refers to the Challenge Club where rambling was 'a big thing', noting that the Club was based at the same premises as the Cheetham YCL and shared many members with the League. Additionally, the same author points out that some Jewish members of these groups were more interested in the social activities on offer than in political agitation. Indeed, party members complained that the Cheetham branch of the Young Communist League had too many dances and rambles as opposed to more strictly political work.

It is not likely that outside Scouting rambling was particularly popular in the Manchester Jewish community before the First World War. It was mostly the children of immigrants who took up the hobby and the fight for the right to roam. The Rucksack Club was established in Manchester in 1902 to facilitate walking tours and mountain expeditions but there is little evidence to suggest it attracted Jewish members. It is most unlikely that establishment-led movements such as the Jewish Lads Brigade or the Scouts would have encouraged participation in the protest movement. Certainly, the best documented early Jewish participants had become active in left wing politics, as has been demonstrated by Livshin and Dee. By contrast the communal elite 'sought to steer the immigrant poor away from militant politics', whilst one of the aims of the JLB was 'to protect society from dangerous socialist doctrines'.

The Jewish link between sport and left wing politics was not limited to England. One example is the Jutrzenka Sports Club in Kraków, which was established in 1909 and perceived as a club affiliated with the Bund. Having said that, it is apparent that the countryside was appreciated by some members of the Jewish community who were not committed ramblers. Members of the Archei Brith Friendly Society enjoyed an annual picnic in 1904. A photograph recording the occasion shows the officers and members of the Society in their full regalia against a rural background. As a further example, the Manchester Jewish Museum holds a photo of members of the Workers' Circle Friendly Society enjoying a picnic at Rose Hill, Marple in August 1920. The society, originally called the Arbeiter Ring Verein, was socialist in outlook, more so than most of the Friendly Societies established to support Jewish immigrants.

Appreciation of the countryside was also reflected by the number of Jewish cyclists. There is some evidence that children of Jewish immigrants were attracted to cycling before rambling. Dee notes that in 1904 members of the Jewish Working Men's Club founded a cycling section called the 'Derby Wheelers'. He also notes that 'regular cycle meets began to be organised by the Cheetham Clarion Club from 1904 onwards'. Benny Rothman had acquired a bike by the age of 15, well before the Kinder Trespass, and he later joined the Clarion Cycling Club that was originally formed as the Socialists' Cycling Club in 1894.

To be continued. If anyone would like to receive the full publication with references, contact the author on weisgard@hotmail.com.

Geoffrey Weisgard, member

Parish Notes - An Appeal

Eagle eyed readers will have noticed that Parish Notes is missing from this issue of *Signpost*. When this series of articles was launched some years ago my intention was to give members the opportunity to share information about their favourite parishes with the wider PNFS membership. I'm sure that many of us do know of just such a parish, so I'd encourage you to contact me at webmaster@pnfs.org.uk and offer to contribute to this important series of articles.

Please ensure that you submit your article in a format and length (500-600 words) similar to Parish Notes previously published, such as that in the spring 2022 issue of *Signpost*.

Mel Bale, Membership Secretary, Webmaster and Trustee

First Success as C&IO

When I was first appointed as a Courts and Inquiries Officer in June 2021, one of the three faults I selected to try getting fixed was on Mitton FP6 in the Ribble Valley. This was a dilapidated stile in a waist-high wire fence with its step missing, which I had reported to the Lancashire County Council after my first inspection of Mitton in early 2016.

In June 2021 the stile had still not been replaced. An exchange of emails with LCC ensued in the autumn but I was not given any indication as to when the fault would be rectified.

In April 2022, my mentor John Harker and I walked to this fault to establish if it warranted enforcement action and - behold and lo - was a brand new metal kissing gate. Sorted and my first success as a C&IO!
Shirley M Addy, Footpath Inspector and Courts and Inquiries Officer



Walks for PNFS Members

IT IS VITAL that attendees check all train times and pnfs.org.uk for any updates

SHORTER WALKS - All on Wednesdays

John Fisher, Co-ordinator, johnfisher560@btinternet.com, 01625 439298 or 07432 825624

13 July David & Beth Bratt 01925 762472; 07401 789400	Delamere Forest circular walk from Delamere station, 7 miles inc forest paths, some Sandstone Trail and Pale Heights hill. Lunch at visitor centre (their menu or bring your own). Train from Manchester Piccadilly 09:39, Stockport 09:52. Walk starts Delamere station 11:00. Return train 15:18
10 August John Fisher 01625 439298; 07432 825624	Buxton circular, 7 miles, based on the Buxton 'Ring of Trees' walk. Train details to follow on website and in next <i>Signpost/Waymark</i> or website
14 September John Harker 07929 051978	Linear Grindleford to Hope 8 miles, inc paths with which PNFS was involved in its history, Padley Chapel, Grindleford No12, Harper Lee, Leadmill Bridge, Offerton No4, Bradwell, Brough, Aston No7. Train from Manchester Piccadilly 09:42 to Grindleford or Sheffield to Grindleford 10:14. Walk starts at Grindleford station when both trains have arrived. Return from Hope station
12 October Brian Lomas 01616 885237	Rochdale area. Details to be announced in next <i>Signpost/Waymark</i> or on website
9 November	Contact John Fisher if you would like to lead this walk
14 December	Joint walk with longer walks group. Greenfield area. Details to be announced in next <i>Signpost/Waymark</i> or on website

LONGER WALKS - All on Wednesdays

Ken Smith, Co-ordinator, kensmith4rj@icloud.com, 07918 154959

29 June Gavin Miller 07951 746323	Cat and Fiddle, Three Shire Heads, Macclesfield, 11 miles, 1400 ft. 09:35 from Manchester Piccadilly (09:44 from Stockport) to Macclesfield for 10:15 bus 58 to Cat and Fiddle
27 July Ross Myddelton 07941 547378	Silverdale, Leighton Moss, Jenny Brown's Point, FP14, 11 miles. Train 08:48 Piccadilly. Arrives Silverdale 10:29. Book Arnside return. Walk starts at Silverdale Station 10:30
31 August Dave Rigby 07527 582143	Slaithwaite hilly circular walk, 10 miles. Train leaves Piccadilly 09:58. Arrives Slaithwaite 10:33. Walk starts at 10:35
28 September Ken Smith 07918 154959	Marsden to Greenfield via Pule Hill, 10 miles, 1432 ft. Train 09:58 Piccadilly. Walk starts at 10:30
26 October Martin Riley 07908 081959	Shaw Circular Walk. Approx 10 miles, some climbs. Shaw Metro tram stop 10:30
30 November and 14 December	Contact Ken Smith if you would like to one of these walks

EAST SIDE WALKS - All on Tuesdays

Ken Brockway, Co-ordinator, great.english.walk@gmail.com, 01773 287225

19 July *Leader required	Barnsley - Elsecar linear 12 miles. Train 09:55 Chesterfield via Sheffield 10.13. Walks starts Barnsley station 10:40, return from Elsecar
16 August *Leader required	Rowsley DVHW 11 miles. Bus 170 New Beetwell Street (Stop B12) 10:00 Walks starts Robin Hood 10.30 (from Sheffield tel. leader) Finish Baslow
20 September	***CANCELLED***

Painting Signpost S085

On a fine day in April, past the worst of covid and knee problems, my husband and I ventured into Edale. We started the day by climbing Jacob's Ladder. When we reached the large cairn at the top where we would have our lunch, unexpectedly, there was a PNFS volunteer painting signpost S085. The sign clearly directs people descending that they need to make a ninety degree left turn.

I chatted to the man, whom I later found out was Steve Brown, and he explained the order of painting using quick drying paint on a good weather day. First the background green, perhaps morning coffee after this, and then the white highlighting of the words and arrows surprisingly working from bottom to top as this makes it easier to rest the arm and not affect the underlying green paint. I took a photograph of him as I felt sure that not many 'in action' shots are taken as such work is generally undertaken by a person on their own.

In view of the steady fine weather Steve had recently painted a couple of signs nearby, though not on the same day. This one was an easier one to do as, because it is an early one dated 1939, it does not carry the PNFS roundel logo. We thanked him for his dedication and continued on our way over Brown Knoll towards Rushup Edge savouring the expansive views as we went.

Main photo by Cynthia Moore, showing Steve Brown painting S085
Cynthia Moore, member

