

S412 Pendle Way  
Photograph by Mark Chung

Magazine of the Peak & Northern Footpaths Society

# Signpost

Number 83 - Spring 2025



TONY CROSS  
ELLEN MORRIS  
S412 PENDLE WAY  
PEAK & NORTHERN  
FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

JOIN US!  
PEAK & NORTHERN  
FOOTPATHS SOCIETY  
DO TRAVELLING LIGHT  
DON'T FORGET TO BRING  
YOUR OWN WATER



PEAK & NORTHERN  
FOOTPATHS SOCIETY







## From the Chair



Welcome to PNFS in 2025! As you will see in this edition of *Signpost*, we had a successful half year meeting in Sheffield in November. The launch of our five-year strategy was an important milestone for the society. If you were not there you will be able to read it on the website. We are now working on an implementation plan with particular attention to the first year. I know we cannot do everything all at once so prioritising will be vital to ensure we make good progress. It was good to have the chance to see members and we all enjoyed the talk 'In all our Footsteps' as you will see from David Gosling's excellent summary.

Since November time seems to have gone very quickly. Christmas has come and gone, and we seem to have been beset by more gales and storms than usual. However, I hope you were able to take advantage of bank holidays and festivities to spend time with friends and family as we entered 2025. The end of January brings a distinctly lighter feeling, with welcome additional daylight at the start and end of the day. So, weather permitting there is the potential for walking, footpath inspecting and generally reflecting on the value of the open space we can access. The recent storms inevitably have an impact on the countryside, so be careful and do report any issues either as an inspector or via the Pathcheckers app.

We continue to have success in our work, you will see some of the examples in this edition and we will be hoping to see even more improvements in 2025. The number of footpath inspectors is slowly rising but we have many vacant parishes, so please contact Simon Worrall ([simonworrall@pnfs.org.uk](mailto:simonworrall@pnfs.org.uk)) if you are

interested in taking on a parish, or perhaps more than one. There is a conference planned for inspectors at the beginning of March. This should be a good day, and a great chance for new and well-established inspectors to get together.

We have many (about 580) of our signposts across the geography we oversee but David Morton would like some more ideas of possible places to consider new signposts. Do let him know if you find a good opportunity, especially in areas such as South Derbyshire where we have very few. I didn't see any whilst inspecting footpaths today in that area.

I have previously mentioned that we are looking for a treasurer and a secretary. It is not too late to offer your services! But we are also keen to hear from anyone who feels they could contribute to other roles.

As spring gets closer, I always feel hopeful, spotting first snowdrops and today a few daffodils, really is uplifting. Birds are starting to get ready for nesting and there is more birdsong audible already. I look forward to seeing you in 2025 and thank you for all your support.

*Kathy Mclean, Chair*





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Design and print by Lymetrees  
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## Fed-up with finding paths obstructed or overgrown?

### Become a footpath inspector for PNFS!

Monitor rights of way on behalf of the Society

- in an area you have agreed to inspect
- at your own pace
- in your own time
- find the paths on our unique database
- record your inspections
- report problems

*Have the satisfaction of supporting the work of the Society and protecting our right to walk public footpaths.*

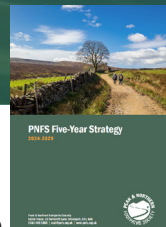
**If you are interested contact the Society's Footpath Inspection Coordinator, Simon Worrall, by email [inspection@pnfs.org.uk](mailto:inspection@pnfs.org.uk)**

### INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

For more details of above and other volunteering roles, go to [pnfs.org.uk/volunteer](http://pnfs.org.uk/volunteer)



# Launch of our Five Year Strategy



At our Half Year Meeting in November we launched the Society's Five Year Strategy. This was finalised after input from Trustees, volunteers and members. Thank you for your feedback which has been very helpful. You can read the strategy on [pnfs.org.uk](https://pnfs.org.uk). Having created the first five year strategy we now need to prioritise the ambitions and agree plans to implement them. The Trustees will be leading this work but we will need engagement from volunteers and members.

As you will see in the strategy, the society would like to create a situation in which 'all lawful users of rights of way can exercise their rights without hindrance throughout our region'. That would be mean no more obstructed paths, no more attempts to extinguish rights of way, no more landowners trying to deter walkers. Because this is a difficult (maybe an impossible) goal to achieve it means PNFS is not going to become redundant, or to put it another way, the Society is needed!

The strategy also clarifies our values and the culture or ethos which we aspire to for the way people within our Society behave towards each other. We have many possible priorities but one of the first will be setting out ways to make the impact of our work more visible. This will help us to be recognised as a leading advocate for the preservation of access to public rights of way and open spaces. Another key priority is 'succession planning'. For any charity dependent on volunteers to survive and thrive it must recruit people to fill key roles where there are gaps and ensure that, as current officers retire, there are people willing to take over.

Thirdly the Society would like to grow its membership and the number of volunteers who monitor rights of way and carry out other functions, like maintaining signposts. The idea of growing the region we cover, by including new areas, such as Nottinghamshire, is a more controversial proposal which needs to be thoroughly debated before a decision is made.

While the Society has healthy reserves and a stable income, it is potentially restricted in some of its activities by the finite funds available. Historically PNFS has not had a funding strategy. Income is reliant on membership fees, donations and legacies. The strategy suggests that PNFS could be more active in applying for grants and engaging in fundraising.

To be a well-functioning and ethical charity, good governance is essential. The strategy has identified governance as an area for improvement, and to that end we will be reviewing decision-making within the Society and looking for ways of achieving more effective debate which will make us more inclusive and efficient.

We also want to improve our public profile. How often do we hear walkers say that they have never heard of PNFS? This will only improve if we pay more attention to publicity, better liaison with the press, have active campaigns using social media and digital communication (including continued development of the website).

The strategy identifies actions relating to improving how we interact with our volunteers and how we communicate with each other. It also lays out some actions relating to signposts, bridges and footpath improvements, and like all charities we need to pay attention to improving diversity among our members and officers. Finally, we need to keep under review our assets, which includes the security of our digital files and our main physical asset, Taylor House.

The Five-Year Strategy is available to read in full on the front page of our website. If you believe PNFS has important and valuable work to do, and you can help us achieve our goals, please get in touch. We need your help.

*Kathy McLean (Chair) and David Gosling (Vice Chair)*





# Help with PNFS signposts

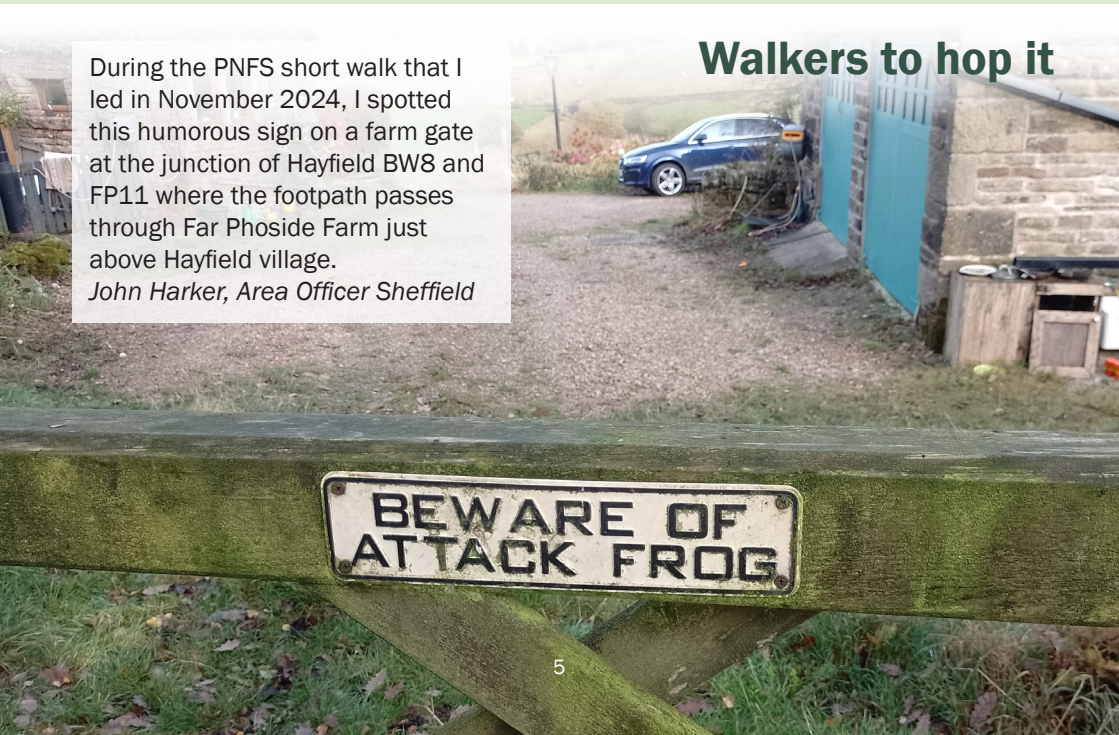
Please check the below signposts and send photos and brief reports on condition of paintwork and posts to David Morton, Signpost Officer via [signposts@pnfs.org.uk](mailto:signposts@pnfs.org.uk).

No	Grid Ref	Location
274	SK 09115 57882	Manifold Railway, N of tunnel
247	SK 06426 90098	Junction of William Clough & Pennine Way
349	SK 10085 84922	Tagsnaze at Highfield Farm Upper Booth, Edale
350	SK 10064 84729	Highfield Farm nr Upper Booth, Edale
236	SK 10465 72075	Topley Pike, Deepdale, A6 E of Buxton
437	SJ 9699 7601	Common Barn Farm, Rainow
315	SJ 97224 74555	Lower Ballgreave Farm, Lamaload
434	SJ 9711 7468	200m NW of Lr Ballgreave Farm
433	SJ 9698 7449	200m WSW of Lr Ballgreave Farm barn, Lamaload
436	SJ 9686 7604	Common Barn farm yard
313	SK 10653 56780	200m E.of Manor House, Wetton
379	SJ 96986 68110	Lower Nabbs Farm, Wildboardclough
577	SK 06827 59019	Stoneyfold Lane, S of Eleven Lane Ends
296	SK 10706 59198	100m S of Manifold Hotel, Hulme End
249	SJ 95200 83104	0.4km WSW of Platt Wood Farm
383	SJ 99504 79359	Wright's Farm, 1km ESE of Kettleshulme
425	SK 2794 9899	Isle of Skye, Hunshelf, Barnsley
426	SK 2806 9906	Isle of Skye, Hunshelf, Barnsley
291	SK 28109 99208	Green Moor CC nr Stocksbridge
261	SK 10766 90761	Lady Clough, Snake Path 0.3km W of Snake Inn
10	SK 10970 90728	300m NW of Snake Inn, off W side of A57

During the PNFS short walk that I led in November 2024, I spotted this humorous sign on a farm gate at the junction of Hayfield BW8 and FP11 where the footpath passes through Far Phoside Farm just above Hayfield village.

*John Harker, Area Officer Sheffield*

## Walkers to hop it



# Stafford Moorlands

Some great countryside, lovely villages and busy towns. This should be a popular area for rambles but it's not, why not? Perhaps access is one issue, public transport is poor but then most folk now drive to their walk location. Lack of services? Pubs can be found, although many shown on old OS maps have vanished but there are some great views to settle into and enjoy your packed lunch. Publicity and availability of circular walks may be poor but no shortage of paths shown on maps so make up your own route then go out and explore.

This is just what I did in August 2024 dropping off the bus from Ashbourne at Winkhill. I should have looked at the database during planning because although the last report was 2018 Waterhouses FP32 is still impossible, the site is fenced off. FPs 113 and 31 may offer an alternative but there was no finger post and beyond impressive steel steps the path looked overgrown across derelict land.

No worries, I crossed the River Hamps taking Ipstone FP94 shown on older OS maps as the Hamps Way, faded signs on derelict stiles confirm a lack of maintenance. It started well with gates alongside overgrown stiles. At the north end what some may call a stile I would describe as a fence obstructed the path.

Travelling along the main road to Leek a few weeks earlier had perhaps prompted my visit, then and now I noted fields appearing abandoned by any form of agriculture. Do landowners receive grants for turning their holding back to nature? Crossing into Waterhouses parish I meet more of these fields of long wild grass which made progress difficult.

I had planned this route to visit the site of a PNFS DMMO application on the boundary of Grindon FP42, a report on the FID of October 2019 indicates progress on some of the issues but I was unable to verify from the west bank feeling at risk of a soaking if I attempted to cross.

I was now free to plot a route with no limitations and headed for Grindon. Climbing out of the Hamps valley along a fenced path I passed Lower Martinslow Farm offered for sale with 5 acres at auction just a few days previous. It will be interesting to see changes at this property that has the three requirements, location, location and location. It does however need a bit of cash spending.



Looking west along Grindon FP30 at junction with FP31 to which sale sign is fixed.



Stepping stones linking Waterhouses FP115 to Onecote FP4 not as busy as Dovedale.



Thorpe Cloud Dovedale from Waterhouses FP37



Grindon was a new location for me. The small church car park and green has seats where I ate lunch while close by a useful tap. The village has little else, a PH marked on earlier maps has been removed. I departed south along a track which offered great views across the eastern Hamps Valley. This valley provided the route for the southern section of the Leek and Manifold Valley Railway, now the trail. Looking back I discover I'd walked Waterhouses FP20 before on the Great English Walks back in 2010.

Crossing the trail and dry river bed my route requires another steep climb to meet an ORPA to Slade House. I now head to Rushley with a stunning view of Thorpe Cloud at Dovedale and directly in front I spy Castern Hall an impressive farm house that has been the location of TV dramas including *Peaky Blinders*. (picture Castern Hall)

At 11 am I feel I'm nearly there but still five miles to go and thankfully paths have improved now I'm in popular walking territory. I cut off the level but longer riverside permissive path by using the right of way. Not over busy on this August Tuesday but after the bridge I take the deserted riverside path to Coldwall Bridge a fascinating former Turnpike route that unlike most has fallen into disuse by traffic. From here I follow the old coach road into Thorpe.

The path south is a delight, mostly fields roamed by sheep, poor stiles but good views as I descend gently to join the Tissington Trail for an easy approach into Ashbourne. A challenging walk along paths, some forgotten others new to me. An area I will return to, next time planning the route with better attention to contours.

*Ken Brockway, Footpath Inspector*





## S085 Jacob's Ladder

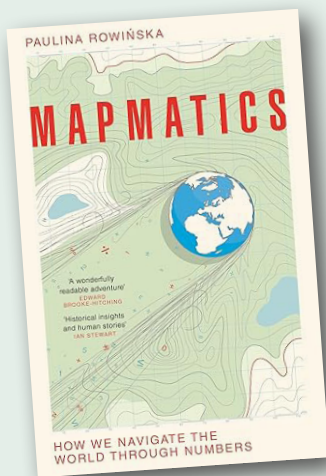
In October 2024, I checked and photographed S085 at Jacob's Ladder. The plate dates from 1939, the post from 2009.

The photographs with the cairn are my favourites, taken just as the sun was about to go down behind the hill at my back. It was very busy with walkers and aroused considerable interest in a father and two young sons, aged 11 and 18, who were planning to wild camp on Kinder Plateau; their first joint trip. They were glad to take a break there and I took photos of them on dad's phone and pointed out the easier zig-zag route up the Ladder for next time, as well as telling them about PNFS.

*David Morton, Signpost Officer*







## Book review - Mapmatics

Paulina Rowinska, published by Picador

Comments on book covers should usually be taken with a pinch of salt. After all, they are primarily there to encourage you to buy a book and may have little to do with how much you subsequently enjoy your purchase. I'm glad to say this is not the case with those on the cover of *Mapmatics*. 'Historical insights and human stories' and 'A wonderful readable adventure' are spot on, and if anything understate the quality and quantity of what awaits the reader between its covers.

Most of our members have a love of maps, but I wonder how many of us really appreciate and understand the amount of physical effort and mathematics was required to produce them. The first two chapters of the book are a potted history of map production. These chapters are full of anecdotes, many of them completely new to me. For example, I never realised that they had been competing ideas about the shape of the earth. Traditional globes represent the planet as a sphere, but back in the seventeenth century, there was a debate as to whether its true shape was more like an egg or a grapefruit. The matter was finally resolved in the following century when the Geodesic Mission to the Equator was undertaken. The answer is to be found on page 25!

The key to the mission was the principle and use of triangulation, a remarkably simple but highly effective way of producing a map. The technique came into its own in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but it was first used by Thales (624 BCE) and Pythagoras (570 BCE). In fact, Eratosthenes (276 BCE) used it to calculate the circumference of the earth at the equator. It is believed that his figure was remarkably accurate, probably within 2% of the actual figure of 40,075 km.

These examples are just a taste of the wealth of information that the book contains. Many of the stories in the later chapters will almost certainly make the reader want to delve deeper into their background and the characters involved.

The book's author is Dr. Paulina Rowinska, she is originally from Warsaw and credits her father with sparking her interest in maps. One night, in a darkened room, he illuminated a globe from one side to demonstrate how at any one moment in time it is day and night on different parts of the earth.

I wholeheartedly recommend this book, read it and I think you'll be inspired in a similar way to Paulina to find out more about 'how we navigate the world (or our small space in it) though numbers'

Mel Bale, Membership Secretary and Trustee





## Prospects and Signpost Donations

There are still no new signposts in prospect, as I have received no acceptable suggestions (see the signpost criteria previously published in Signpost 79). Footpath inspector, David Gartside walked the Bosley Cloud area recently, met the local farmer and drew a detailed sketch map of the footpath junction just south of the Cloud. The farmer was willing to consent and even help, but gave me convincing warnings about the dangers of vandalism there.

My thanks again to Simon Worrall for enlisting the help of footpath inspectors and path checkers in the growing task of suggesting, monitoring, cleaning and clearing our signposts. Their response has been good.

We have had just one donation of £100 from Mr Torr for the cost of reposting S427 at Fallinge, Rowsley, which is in memory of his parents. Total donations for 2024 now stand at £4,935 plus some gift aid.

Currently the full donation to cover the cost of a new signpost is £800, but lower donations are welcome for modified memorial plaques, repairs, etc.

There are no new signposts in the pipeline, but I have ordered a new plate for S093 on the Hope to Lose Hill footpath, which was damaged beyond repair by a hedge-cutter.



## **New Signposts**

No new signposts have been erected since late July. Our website now shows that only seven new signposts have been erected in the last 12 months which is a record low.

I have recently emailed the PDNP ranger for Goyt Valley in hope of placing one at SK01027605, where our signpost 61 stood from 1929 to the mid 60s. I now need to contact Forestry England.

I have also emailed a reminder to our footpath inspector for Garstang regarding a new signpost at or near to the Wyre Way. It's an area lacking any PNFS signs. My attempt to gain landowner's consent through him started positively in July 2022, but has since dragged on for over two years..

## **Theft**

Following the theft of S385, which was reported missing in February, S511 at New Barn, Win Hill, was cut down and stolen in September, having previously been uprooted and reinstated. The PDNP ranger at Fairholmes, says that such vandalism is commonplace near Win Hill, eg theft of JUPs from S506, 7, 8. Our third toposcope was stolen from Win Hill in June 2019 within two weeks of installation.

## **Maintenance**

### **September**

- S083 at Brandtop repositioned incorrectly by farmer then by me.
- S071 SB&PC then reinstated on wooden repair post by John, Nick and I.
- S229 at Low Leighton repainted by Steve Brown.
- Reinstated 494 on PFC towpath a Strines, using salvaged angle-iron post as location in hedge is prone to damp and rot.

### **October**

- S264 and S307 at Litton repainted by Steve Brown.
- S227 IMO Brian Summerscales near Ollerton was cleaned by his son John.
- S038 at Brough near Hope SB&PC main plate, then reinstated it with vital help of two local men, Ben and Nigel. It was too heavy for me to lift!
- Touched up S506, 7 and replaced their JUPs, then touched up S224.
- S547, 8 touched up by Steve Brown.

### **November**

- Photos, brief reports from numerous footpath inspectors. Particular thanks to Dr and Mrs Chris Davies for their many excellent photos, of around 100 signs, all taken in 2024.
- S217 near Tideswell repainted by Steve Brown.
- Inspected S014, 021, 022, 038, 112, 146/7, 188, 250; repainted logo and sticker on S188 at Burbage, reinstated refurbished X plate on S038; collected two fingers for F8 from PDNP ranger Andy Shaw at Errwood DCM.
- S002 and S029 repainted by Steve Brown.
- Steve Riley of Fallinge Farm, Rowsley did all the hard carrying and digging reinstating 427.

### **December**

- Cleaned and checked S204 at Mellor. Replaced two fingers on F8 at Bullshaw Farm, Little Hayfield. Fingers were made by/for PDNP. Fitting them was a new experience for me. I hope that DCC will provide two more, leaving the final two for us to get made. Luckily I now know a carpenter with a router.

## Harold Wild and Dr Frank Head, PhD,DSc (1907-1984)

See my appreciation of Harold elsewhere in this *Signpost*. I was able to contact his daughters Patricia and Dorothy again by phone. They grew up in Burnage, but now live on the fringes of the Lake District.

An email from Frank Head's daughter Rebecca re ivy encroaching on Frank's signpost in Mellor churchyard (S204) reminded me to contact Harold's daughters again.

Frank was Founder and President of the Manchester Associates Rambling Club, as well as President of PNFS from 1955-1984. Rebecca is moving house to Hartington and is keen to get involved in footpath inspection for us.

**Total Signs, etc: 583**



Another moment in history captured in our signposts. Arthur Moon became our secretary in 1908. He was a solicitor in King Street, Manchester. Signpost 95 was paid for by Arthur and erected by H R Ogden on 29 May 1938, ten weeks after Hitler annexed Austria and four months before the Munich Agreement. The plate is cast iron, like all our pre-WW2 signpost plates.

*David Morton, Signpost Officer*



## Steel Cotton rail trail

Out in the Hope Valley I came across some recently installed waymarks for The Steel Cotton Rail Trail. Not a lot online mostly Facebook and Instagram “The Steel Cotton Rail Trail is a long-distance walking route in the Peak District of England that runs between Manchester Piccadilly station and Sheffield Station. The trail is being developed by the High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership.” Nothing that I could find on the partnership website but something to look out for as it will link PNFS east and west.

*Ken Brockway, Footpath Inspector*



## Castleton FP23 improvements

Picture ‘a’ is looking towards Hope Cement works over Castleton.

Picture ‘b’ shows the famous Mam Tor landslip in the background.

A couple of pictures of very recent improvements to Castleton FP23. I walked the route on 30 November 2024,



five days after the closure for the work. It's all a bit raw still and I do wonder how it will stand up to a heavy rain but it's great at present. I don't know who paid for this.

*Ken Brockway, Footpath Inspector*

## Signpost 233 at night

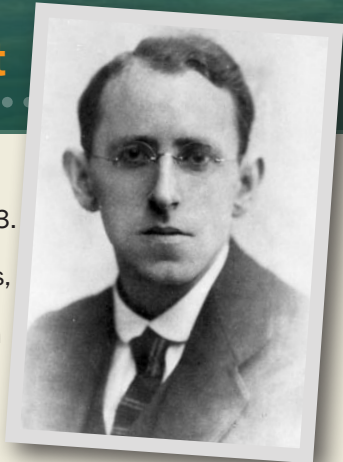
Here is a picture of signpost 233, modelled by my friend James during a recent night walk up Mount Famine and South Head, returning via Dimpus Clough.

*Alex Waddington, Member*



## Harold Wild - a hero from our past

Harold Wild was born in Gorton on 24 January 1896, lived at 20 Slade Grove, Manchester, and died on 6 July 1979, aged 83. Recently Andrew Harter scanned Harold Wild's 200+ page signpost notebook. It records in detail, including their histories, our first 119 signposts and 29 fingerposts, plus a few altitude plaques and the mileposts on the Hayfield to Snake path, all in Harold's longhand, together with his drawings of each one in the pre-digital photo age, when film and photographs were still expensive (see photo of double page covering signs 2 and 29 by the white shooting cabin at Middle Moor, Hayfield). It is a little-known aspect of Harold's contribution to PNFS over 59 years from 1920. Later signposts have been added to the book by later signpost officers, but not so carefully. I have found it invaluable in my work. It is now available on the members-only section of the website.



I've written about him more than once before. In 1979, when Harold died, Frank Head, another famous Rambler and our President from 1954, wrote a stirring tribute to him in the AR describing him as "a man of uncompromising integrity, wholly devoted to the Society and the footpaths cause" and added, "His most notable achievement was probably the reopening in 1940 of the old bridleway\* between Westend Clough in the upper Derwent Valley and Alport Castles. It took him seventeen years of persistent effort to persuade the Devonshire Estates to remove the obstructions. In pre-access days he also negotiated the permissive use of the footpath from Edale up Grindsbrook to Kinder, which now forms the start of the Pennine Way". More recently we recognised this by my adding a memorial plaque to him on S118, which stands at the Westend Clough end of the path, plus in 2010 an explanatory plaque on S112, which now stands at the Moorland Centre, Edale.

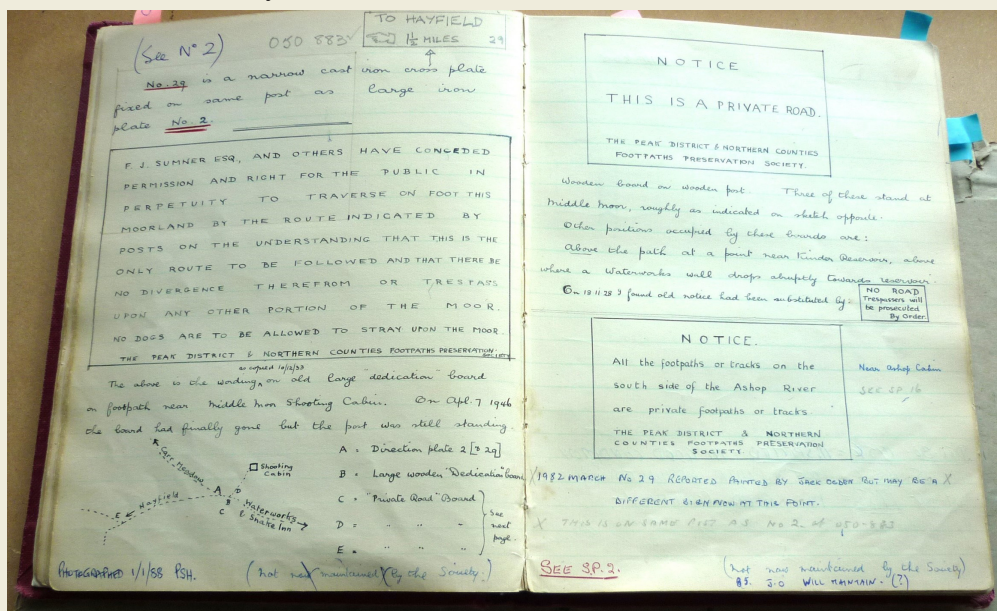
In 1997 a comprehensive, two page tribute to him, written by his daughter Pat and edited by John Harrop appeared in the AR. It portrays a lovely and indomitable man. His memorial footbridge 9 at Rowarth featured in *Signpost* 82. In November 2021 he featured in my long YouTube talk about the history of our signposts. He became a member of Council in 2020 when Rowland Mower was our Footpaths Inspector, which role included that of signpost officer and in Rowland's case signpost designer and maker. Rowland's assistants were Bert Ward, founder of Sheffield Clarion Club and Thomas Bulger. Thomas served PNFS from 1921-1963 becoming our chairman. Rowland's father Thomas, our first "Footpath Inspector cum Signpost Supervisor", had died in 1915. According to the 1920 AR, annual expenditure by PNFS was £25, of which 10/- was spent on "Re-erection of Notice Boards".

Just one year later in 1921 Harold took over from Rowland at the age of 24. He promptly erected 6 all-wood signs (50-55), which were later replaced by cast iron plates in 1924-26,



and he planned a "five armed post" at Bullshaw Farm, probably the current Fingerpost 8, which now has 6 arms. The 1921 AR singles out Harold for commendation and refers to his rapid work in re-erecting and repainting existing signposts, completed in 1922. He went on to erect about 100 new signposts. In 1947 he organised a 50th anniversary tea-party at Hayfield to celebrate the dedication of the PROW from Hayfield to the Snake Inn in 1897.

He was also our secretary from 1949-51. By 1952 he was one of a team of five Footpath Inspectors and he was designated "Signpost Supervisor" in 1954 and 55. He then became a vice president and member of the newly-constituted General Purposes Committee and Technical Sub-Committee. He remained a vice-president and one of just three trustees until the year he died.



Harold did all his work using public transport and on foot. He never owned a car. His detailed accounts of footpath inspections and rambles confusingly abbreviated tramcars to cars not trams. In May 2015 we erected 493 in Harold's memory at the north end of Wolfscote Dale. It was donated by his daughters Pat and Dorothy – see .jpegs. He is unique in having three memorial plaques on PNFS structures and in serving PNFS for 59 years.

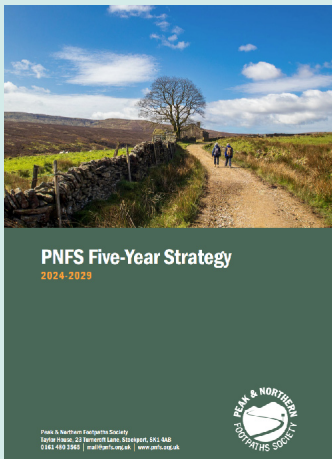
Harold was born with a serious physical handicap: one leg was shorter than the other, probably due to one hip being dislocated at birth, so he limped. This made him unfit for service in WW1, but as a matter of pacifist principle, he registered as a conscientious objector, appeared before a panel, refused to do any war-related work like munitions and spent at least one night in prison. Frank Head noted that in his prime Harold was capable of walking 25 miles over moorland in spite of his handicap. As the saying goes, after they made Harold, they broke the mould.

David Morton, Signpost Officer





*Carpenter Room*



The Society held a successful Half Year Meeting on 16 November 2024 at the Carpenter Room in Sheffield Central Library. Nearly fifty members gathered to attend the Extraordinary General Meeting, followed by the launch of the PNFS Five Year Strategy document.

The EGM was the first business. Chad Wilkinson, Trustee, explained why Trustees were recommending an alteration to the constitution. The current wording of Annex C Section 34(2) requires the Society to prepare its accounts according to SORP (statement of Recommended Practice), but the Charity Commission's guidance says that "The accounting recommendations of the SORP do not apply to charities preparing receipts and payments accounts." As the Society has been using receipts and payments accounting for many years, this clause needs to be removed. The motion was proposed by Derek Bodey and seconded by John Harker and was passed 'nem con' with one abstention. The constitution is duly amended.

Kathy McLean, as Chair of the Society, introduced the Five Year Strategy which has recently been circulated to all members for comment. David Gosling received the comments and explained that the final strategy, now being launched, incorporates some changes resulting from that consultation.

Tim Lewis, Trustee, explained that it was essential for the Society to be able to measure the impact of its actions. He presented outcomes data which compared the Society's activities over three years. Some recent successes were highlighted to the meeting showing the impact of the Society in protecting rights of way. First, Andy Leader's success as a result of taking Kirklees Council to court over their failure to maintain Ramsden Road, a popular track in the Holme Valley. KMBC were required to come up with a programme of works which have now commenced.



# Successful Half Year Meeting in Sheffield

The second recent success has been achieved by John Harker when Risley 19 was finally opened to the public after its closure in 2003. This required John to provide his advice, expertise and determination to support Mrs Simpson who brought the case. A short video of this item on Midlands News was shown.

Thirdly, Nigel Howe, the Society's bridges officer was congratulated on project managing a new footbridge on Keighley 29. The Society provided funds which enabled the bridge to be erected.

All those present received a printed copy of the Strategy document which, as Kathy explained, was the first in its history to be adopted by the Society. It sets forward the vision, mission and values of the Society and our strategic priorities for actions which will ensure the Society has a strong future and can continue to achieve its objectives. She explained the next step will be to decide on a timetable for actions and to identify those responsible for planning and undertaking those actions.

This was followed by comments and questions from the floor.



*Ramsden Road (before)*



*Ramsden Road (after)*

After the break, Dr Clare Hickman and Dr Abbi Flint from Newcastle University, spoke about the research project 'In All Our Footsteps' in which they had collaborated with Prof. Glen O'Hara and Tom Breen from Oxford Brookes University. This was a cross-disciplinary project taking a historical, health and policy perspective to the mapping, development, use and experience of twentieth and twenty-first century rights of way.

Some themes from the project were outlined including the creation of the Definitive Maps following the 1949 Act, the work of volunteers (like PNFS) who seek to preserve the rights of way network, and issues of accessibility on many paths.

Clare Hickman spoke about her interest in the way access to the 'countryside' and the 'open air' were seen as a key to healthy living. Pandemics, from cholera, through tuberculosis to Covid, have each generated heightened attention to the value to city-dwellers of having access to healthy leisure activities in the outdoors.

Abbi Flint took as a case study the Cown Edge Way, created in 1970 by members of PNFS and the Ramblers. This is an eighteen mile route from Hazel Grove (Stockport) to Gee Cross via Mellor, Charlesworth and Werneth Low. It passes through three Highway Authorities – Stockport, Derbyshire and Tameside.

Abbi described her and Clare's experience of walking this route, after researching archival records which revealed that it had been created to be accessible to people from nearby urban centres. But they found a route in which the signposts had fallen into decay, many paths were over-grown or with a poor surface and had been encroached by developments. Abbi spoke eloquently of the difficulties of accessing and traversing this route, but also of its rewards and delights.

The meeting closed with thanks to our speakers. After a BYO lunch John Harker led a group of members on a walk around Sheffield city centre.

*David Gosling, Vice Chair*





## A path in Emma

On recently reading Jane Austen's novel *Emma*, I came to this passage in chapter 12, which may be of interest: "But, John, as to what I was telling you of my idea of moving the path to Langham, of turning it more to the right that it may not cut through the home meadows, I cannot conceive any difficulty. I should not attempt it, if it were to be the means of inconvenience to the Highbury people, but if you call to mind exactly the present line of the path ... The only way of proving it, however, will be to turn to our maps. I shall see you at the Abbey tomorrow morning I hope, and then we will look them over, and you shall give me your opinion."

*Emma* was first published in 1816 and should be seen in its socio-historical context. This period was at the height of the Parliamentary enclosure movement when landowners took upon themselves the right to enclose large tracts of previously open land for economic gain, thus depriving people of their long-held right of access, the right to graze animals, and other traditional rights. By referring to "our maps", they mean of course privately held estate maps and enclosure award maps, drawn up as witness to their land ownership and their right to treat their land as they pleased and to move footpaths for their own convenience. The speaker might say he does not wish to inconvenience the Highbury people, but the maps would have the final say.

This episode is incidental to the theme of the novel, so we do not get to know the outcome of looking at the maps the next day. But thinking of the historical context again, I think we can guess.

Steve Hird, *PNFS Inspector*

I was amused to see the photos in the spring issue of *Signpost* of an "unusual" stile, and assumed that someone would inform the editor of how common this type is. I was therefore surprised to read the article in the following issue seeming to confirm its peculiarity. On reflection I realised I hadn't seen one of these stiles for some time, in fact not since moving to Derbyshire from Kent a few years ago, where they were a fairly common sight on our walks in the south-east.



I consulted my 'stile bible', *Gates & Stiles* by Michael Roberts, and discovered it is one of the British Fence and Gate Company's rambler stiles, which are mainly found in the south of England, which explains why they are a novelty in this area. A stile which we have found and think unusual, having only seen one previously (in Kent) is a clapper stile which is in Snelston parish, Derbyshire (see above photo). I would be interested if anyone knows of any others.

Janet Tibbit, *Member*

# Signpost Challenge Walk



20 October 2024 heralded a new venture for PNFS. In partnership with the South Manchester branch of the Long Distance Walkers Association (LDWA), PNFS supported a new Challenge Walk called the Signpost Challenge Walk.

Our challenge to walkers and runners is to complete a tough, hilly course of 24 miles (or an 18 mile alternative) in 10 hours, but this is NOT a race. A route description defines the route to be followed using public footpaths and bridleways, across open fields, riverside paths, hills and moorland, avoiding tarmac as much as possible.

Safety is paramount so walkers and runners are timed through four checkpoints: on Werneth Low, Combs Edge (Plainsteads), Chinley Churn (at Peep O' Day) and at The Fox Inn, Brook Bottom. The route also visits four PNFS Signposts. Nourishing refreshments are provided at each checkpoint and there is hot food and drink at the finish.





## Signpost Challenge

Congratulations to

who completed \_\_\_\_ miles in \_\_\_\_ hours \_\_\_\_ minutes

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Event Organiser

Organised by South Manchester LDWA  
in association with the  
Peak and Northern Footpaths Society

*The start (above)*

*The certificate (left)*

Just over a hundred brave men and women set-off from Marple's Senior Citizens' Hall in windy and wet conditions thanks to Storm Ashley which swept across the country that morning. In this weather, the volunteers manning the checkpoints had their own challenges, so thanks to all who helped on the day. The course is a tough one, with over 4,000 feet of ascent on the longer course, but despite the bad weather we had only three retirements.

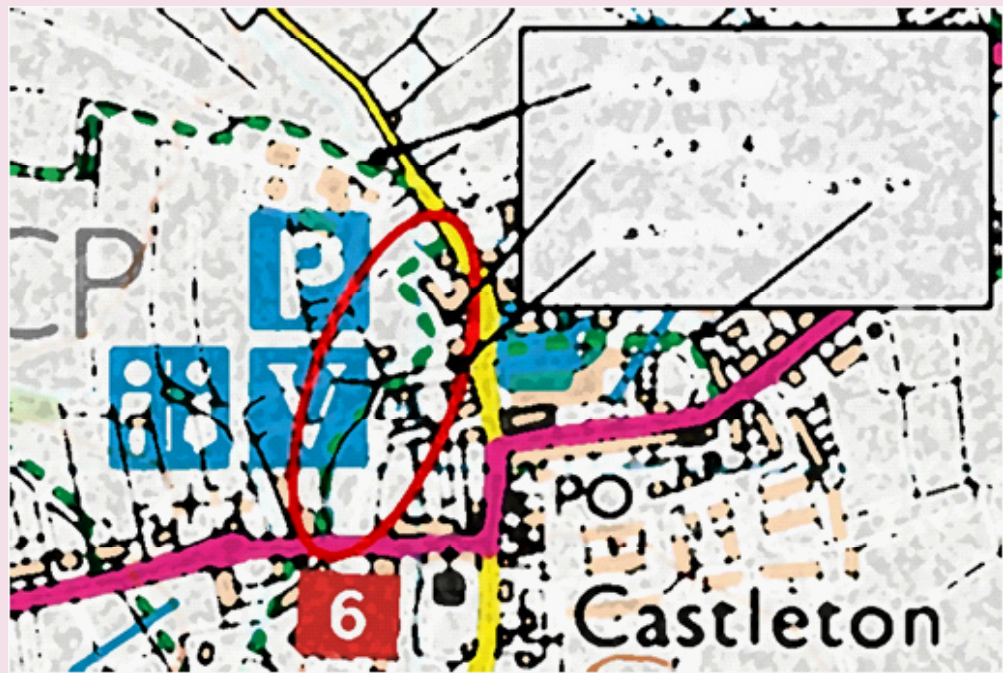
PNFS exists so that footpaths and bridleways are available to all users of rights of way, and the Long Distance Walkers Association (the LDWA) is one of those user groups. Collaborating on this event was a good fit for both organisations, and the result was a very successful event, despite the stormy weather.

Next year's Signpost Challenge will be held on 19 October, so please put that date in your diary to attend as a participant or as a volunteer helper.

*David Gosling, Vice-Chair*

# Cock-up in Castleton

The story begins with a message from Rhoda “Ken I have been looking back at my records of some long-outstanding path faults. One is the fact that there is no stream crossing on Castleton FP49 and no path evident north of the stream. On 14 November 2022, Rob Greatorex said that DCC had evidence for a DMMO to show that the definitive map was wrong. As far as I can tell, nothing further has happened.”



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I start my investigation in 1953 with the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, Part IV Sections 27-38, Survey of Rights of Way. Most village surveys were carried out by members of the parish or in urban areas a member of staff from the District Surveyors office. The Castleton survey was carried out by a family from Grindleford, Mr, Mrs and Miss Markwell, two were also completed by Mr William H Baxby of Lloyd Street Sheffield. I can only guess that these people had an interest in ensuring paths in a popular walking district were recorded.

No written survey schedule was completed for FP49 but it did appear on the survey map although in a different hand to the paths claimed in the schedules. Some parish schedules are very detailed others have just the basics but here there was nothing to help my investigation.

At the Derbyshire Records Office in Matlock I discovered an interesting set of files that came from the Rights of Way section but often go back years when matters were dealt with by the Surveyors department. The file contained significant correspondence about FP49.



In 1960 Chapel-en-le-Frith District Surveyor had been passed complaints received by the parish council about the riding of cycles and the driving of cattle along FP49. The outcome was not on file. On 23 December 1965 a letter to Derbyshire County Council County Surveyor from Chapel-en-le-Frith District Council appears to have started a long exchange of correspondence and events.

The letter made a suggestion that in order to resolve a flooding problem the Highway Authority adopt two gullies on Eades Fold that were said to cause the problem. The letter also refers to FP49 and the loss of the bridge “swept away and never replaced”. The letter goes on to suggest “To save the County Highway Authority renewing this bridge I think it would be wise to extinguish part of footpath 49 and to re-route footpath 49 on to the highway to link with footpath 48. As a quid pro quo the Highway Authority ought to assume responsibility for the two offending gullies which will then form part of the extended footpath works.”

A letter from the County Surveyor to DG Gilman Esq, Clerk of the Council dated 6 January 1966. An admission of guilt, “The line of F.P.49 as claimed on the Draft Map ... The path does not appear on the Schedule submitted by the Parish but has been inserted by this Department, no doubt to link F.P.49 with F.P 37 north of Tricket Bridge.”

The letter also includes information from enquiries that the missing footbridge was erected some fifty years ago (c.1916) for Miss Hall of Crier House. “This was private access as was a second footbridge erected by the Eyre family.” Sounds like the County Surveyors department had blundered by adding the northern section of FP49. The letter tries to make amends by suggesting a modification to the Draft Map to divert FP49 along Eades Fold and remove the northern section.

31 January 1966 a memorandum from DG Gilman to County Surveyor in reply to the correspondence of 6 January. “... the matter of extinguishment of X-Y should be left in abeyance until publication of the Provisional Map in view of the right of objection of the owner.” X-Y being the section of FP49 north of the lost bridge. Mr Gilman adopts a wait and see stance perhaps to avoid embarrassment that X-Y has appeared on the Draft Map resulting from an error by the County Surveyor. Meanwhile the District Surveyor wishing to solve the flooding issue had consulted residents of Eades Fold and obtained their consent that the road could be adopted as a public right of way which would include the offending gullies. After that the file is silent about flooding.

In May 1971 a notice appears in the London Gazette “Notice of Modification of Draft Map” this lists all the changes for the Rural District of Chapel-en-le-Frith. Castleton FP49 does not appear in the list for deleted or included but under Alterations to Statements “Parish of Castleton. Footpath No.49 (.120m) Statement now to read:- Footpath No.49 from Back Street at Eades Fold (GR 150830) in W. then S.W. direction along waterside to Cross Street (GR. 149829)”. This is now adopted as the Definitive Statement for Castleton FP49.

We don't have a copy of the Provisional Map but the Definitive Map remains as the Draft showing FP49 passing over a bridge washed away most likely before the path was added to the survey map. However, the Definitive Statement describes the route along Eades Fold, two different routes. Moral of the story, always check the Statement as well as the Map. A catalogue of errors for all to find in file DCC/SV/2\3\HP/5.

*Ken Brockway, Footpath Inspector*

Numerous guide books have been written, about the Peak District, that enable visitors to identify many interesting places to appreciate. Longley (1885, p. 1) in a guide to The Peak District, stated: 'To determine exactly what the Peak District really is would cause the writing of many books without any very satisfactory conclusion.'<sup>i</sup> In comparison, Simpkin, et al (1911, p3) in *A Day in the Peak*, wrote: 'So many excellent manuals have been published from time to time, that the descriptions of the chief places of resort in Derbyshire are well nigh exhausted. Scarcely anything now remains to be written.'<sup>ii</sup> This was a surprising statement to make especially as many interesting books have since been published, about numerous places in the county, and more are written, about the Peak District, every year. Many books are specifically prepared for ramblers, to use during country walks, and are often themed with titles such as: pub walks; tea shop walks; trigpoint walks; and waterside walks, etc.

It is interesting to consider when a map was first included in a Peak District guide book, for walkers to follow pleasant routes, and who developed a design that has since become a standard format. Many ramblers, who have used walking guides, in Derbyshire and Staffordshire, will have carefully followed route descriptions and sketch maps prepared by various authors; and, in some cases, referred to parts of Ordnance Survey maps when they have been included. Additionally, many writers include colour photographs, or sketches, to enhance their guide books and provide readers with pictures of charming scenes; a difficulty, experienced by many authors, is what to include and what to ignore. Every guide book for ramblers should, of course, provide sufficient information so routes, on sketch maps, can be followed without difficulty and it is fascinating to consider when this was first achieved.

The first publication, about part of the Peak District, that included walk descriptions that could be related to a scale map, was compiled by a member of the Hayfield and Kinder Scout Ancient Footpaths Association although the first edition, that was published in 1877, was sold at a loss. The footpaths association was established the previous year and it was explained, by the secretary (Redfern, 1876), in the *Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter*, that: 'This association is established to protect the ancient rights of way over Kinder Scout and the adjoining neighbourhood; it holds out no encouragement to trespassers, and will in no way lend aid or succour to the lawless who may by their depredations tender themselves amenable to the law <sup>iii</sup>.' It was also reported (Ibid) that: 'A public meeting will be held in a few weeks in the Church Town Day School room, Hayfield, of which notice will be given <sup>iv</sup>.' It was hoped that numerous persons, who were interested in maintaining public rights of way, in the vicinity of Hayfield and Kinder Scout, would join the association and this would enable sufficient funds to be raised. The Hayfield Ancient Footpaths Association was a forerunner of the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society (PNFS) because members, of the association, proposed to include all the Hayfield neighbourhood and attract members who wanted to protect public rights of way. A report (*Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter*, 1876, p8) described an early success: 'We are glad to learn that the right of the public to walk the footpath from Clough to Higher Cliffe to Thornsett has, through the

action of the footpath[s] association, been arranged amicably, and to the satisfaction of all parties concerned<sup>v</sup>.’ Subscriptions, for the footpaths association, could be paid to an account opened at the Manchester and Sheffield Bank and several officials were soon appointed: William Walker, chairman; William Gibb, treasurer; and Henry Redfern and Thomas Mower, secretaries.

It is possible that William Walker was encouraged to establish a footpaths association, and compile a guidebook, after a correspondent, from Marple, with the initials J. B. E., had written to the Editor of a Manchester newspaper. Newspaper readers were informed by JBE (1876, p8), in the *Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter*, (in a letter that was originally published in the *Manchester Examiner and Times*) about some excellent suggestions: ‘1st, to let it be as clearly known as may be where the ancient paths over the Scout really are, and to let this be widely published & 2nd, to, if possible, establish at Hayfield, or some other place, an ancient footpaths association.’<sup>vi</sup> The name of a Hayfield resident who may be relied upon to provide valuable information was also suggested (Ibid) and it was stated: ‘I might mention Mr. Walker, the eminent artist, who has built himself a house in his native village Hayfield’<sup>vii</sup> A project to identify footpaths and bridle roads about Hayfield, that the public could use, was a major undertaking because many paths were not shown on Ordnance Survey maps although, it was hoped, that the Enclosure Commissioners had recorded some routes on a plan. Nevertheless, Walker and his friends were determined to succeed and a public meeting was organised.

A notice was placed in the *Manchester Daily Examiner & Times* by Redfern (1876, p1) the secretary, of the footpath’s association, that read: ‘A Public Meeting will be held in the Church School-room, Hayfield, on Saturday next, September 2nd. All gentlemen interested in the movement are requested to attend. Chair to be taken by William Walker, Esq., of Farlands, Kinder, at five o’clock p.m.’<sup>viii</sup> The meeting was held to prevent encroachment upon the public rights of way over Kinder Scout and to appoint a permanent committee. It was subsequently reported (*Manchester Daily Examiner & Times*, 1876, p3) that there were about 100 people present and that George Manning, Hayfield, moved: ‘That this meeting is of opinion that an association should be formed for the purpose of establishing the right of way over any ancient footpath known to exist in the neighbourhood of Hayfield and the district.’<sup>ix</sup> The attendance, at the public meeting, showed that many people were interested, in the aims and objectives of the association, and it was hoped that numerous supporters would become members and pay regular subscriptions. Committee members envisaged removing any uncertainties, for members of the public, who wanted to use footpaths in the vicinity of Hayfield.

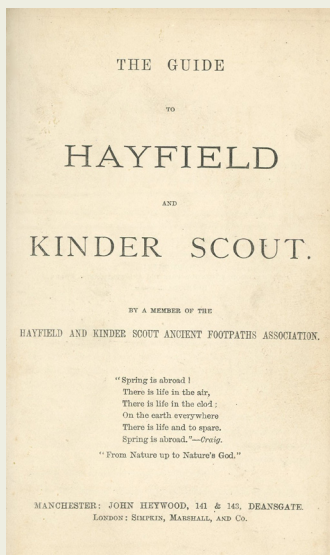
Footpaths were noted between Rowarth and Lantern Pike, and bridle roads were recorded near Little Hayfield, so a map could be prepared to a scale of 3 inches to a mile. Unfortunately, at this time, walkers who wanted to climb Kinder Scout were often stopped by gamekeepers because the moorland was private; although some intrepid ramblers continued to explore. Several committee members, of the Ancient Footpaths Association, had followed paths across the moorland and were determined to ensure better access for walkers. Mr. Walker, for example, had been stopped by gamekeepers, when walking along a bridle path on Kinder Scout, and he used his local knowledge to explain a right of way. It was also believed, at the time, that a path existed from the Snake Inn to Kinder Scout but ramblers, who followed this ancient route, also risked being turned back by keepers. Unfortunately, detailed maps of the region, that showed



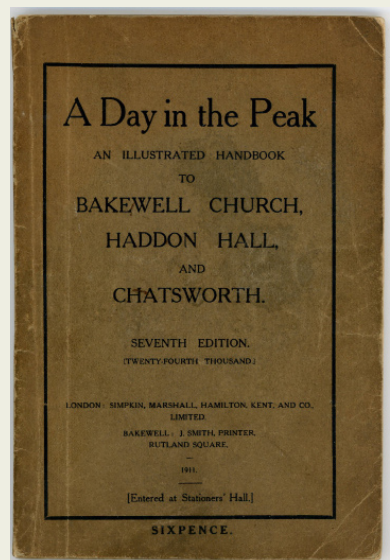
public footpaths and bridleways, were difficult to access and it was resolved that visitors to Hayfield required better guidance. Members of the Hayfield and Kinder Scout Ancient Footpaths Association were fortunate that William Walker became the Editor of a guide book and that his son, W. Eyre Walker, contributed to the design. The first edition of a pocket guide, was produced in 1877, and the guidance was published by John Heywood, Manchester, and Simpkin, Marshall and Co, London. Ramblers, who were interested in walking, in the vicinity of Hayfield and Kinder Scout, could purchase a copy of the guide, that comprised 64 pages, for 6d and those who wanted to join the association paid 1s. to become a member.

*Ron Braddock, Member*

*Longley's Holiday Guides  
The Peak District,  
1885*



*The Guide to Hayfield  
and Kinder Scout,  
1877*



*A Day in the Peak,  
seventh edition,  
1911*

## Footnotes

- i Longley, FE (1885) *The Peak District*. London: FE Longley.
- ii Simpkin, et al (1911) *A Day in the Peak (Seventh Edition)*. London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent, and Co.
- iii Redfern, H (1876) 'Ancient Footpath Association', *Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter*, 5 Aug, p8.
- iv Ibid.
- v *Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter* (1876) 'The Ancient Footpaths Association', 21 Oct, p8.
- vi J. B. E., (1876) *Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter*, 24 June, p8.
- vii Ibid.
- viii Redfern, H. (1876) 'Ancient Footpaths Association', *Manchester Daily Examiner & Times*, 26 August, p1.
- ix *Manchester Daily Examiner & Times* (1876) 'The Right of Way Over Kinder Scout', 4 September, p3.

## Our youngest ever signpost inspectors!



I wanted to share some photos for publication in *Signpost*. My friends and I have been enjoying walks with our babies whilst on maternity leave and finding PNFS signposts. In the summer we took the train from Manchester to Chinley and walked up onto Cracken Edge (stopping for the most scenic breastfeed yet!). Later in the year we travelled to Marsden and walked up to March Haigh reservoir. It has been great to introduce the babies to the hills right from the start. Photographs show signposts 489 (top) and 308 (bottom) being inspected.

Laura Macfarlane, Member





## 15 Short Walks in the Ribble Valley

by Mark Sutcliffe, published by Cicerone, 2025

As footpath inspector for the Ribble Valley, I was excited to hear about Cicerone's latest title in their *15 Short Walks* series which covers 23 popular walking areas. Previously, I had the pleasure of reviewing *15 Short Walks in Arnsdale and Silverdale* for *Signpost* 76.

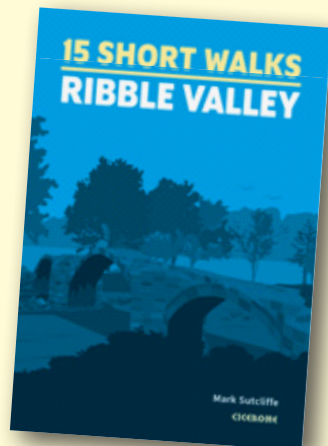
*15 Short Walks in the Ribble Valley* is hand-size and has 98 colour pages with many photographs that do justice to this beautiful area. Useful information is given, such as cafes or pubs, parking and toilets, and for the start of each walk there are postcodes and w3w. The author lives in the Ribble Valley and states that it is "a genuine walker's paradise. This unspoiled corner of rural East Lancashire has it all: gentle rolling countryside, wooded river valleys and some more challenging hill walks for those with an appetite for adventure."

The walks are concentrated in the middle reaches of the river Ribble near Sawley, Clitheroe and Whalley, range from 3¾ to 6¾ miles long. All, except one, are circular and many can be combined with another walk to make a longer one. The directions are clearly written with each route marked on accompanying extracts from the OS 1:25k map, which I regard as essential for a good walk guide. Local features of interest are briefly explained.

One of the walks is the 6.5 mile Tolkien Trail, which will delight both Sherlock Holmes and Lord of the Ring fans. Wainwright fans are also catered for because one route gives the view that inspired him. All routes can be downloaded in gpx format via the publisher's website.

The book's attractive, practical and easy layout of the walks means it is ideal to use whilst out in the field. I warmly recommend this book to anyone wishing to explore this walking paradise.

*Shirley M Addy, Footpath Inspector and Editor*





# Local: A search for nearby nature and wildness

by Alastair Humphreys, Eye Books, 2024, £12.99

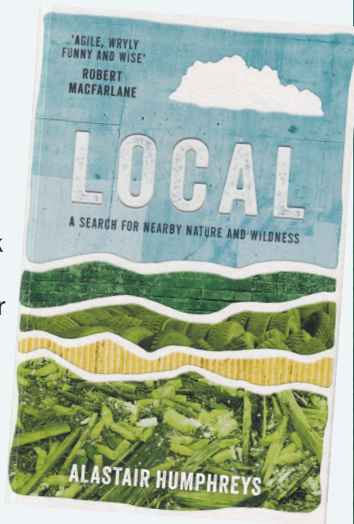
Prior to buying this book I had never heard of the author, but his biographical details include expeditions through more than 80 countries. Back on home soil Humphreys finds himself living in an apparently unexciting area, but pondering whether in the midst of an environmental crisis he can justify yet more flying to far-flung destinations. So he decides to investigate his surroundings to see what he is missing. After ordering an OS Custom map centred on his home he sets out to explore twenty-six 1km grid squares selected at random – then devotes a chapter of the book to each one.

He does not explicitly state where all this took place; but from the descriptions and photographs provided (and some internet searching) the determined reader would probably be able to figure out at least some of the locations. My guess is that the book is set somewhere towards the south-east of England. In reality the fact that places are not identified does not hamper appreciation of the book.

In most instances both his journey to and within his selected grid square are done by cycle. The author is no respecter of the niceties of the PROW network and it is clear that much of his cycling took place on footpaths. However, he frequently gets off his bike for detailed exploration on foot; and it is perhaps telling that he admits the square he got to know the best was the only one he visited purely on foot.

The author argues strongly in favour of increased access to the countryside, while recognising that with greater rights comes greater responsibility. However, this contrasts with his own behaviour at times. For example, on one occasion he rides at “top speed” down a “path that was barely a metre wide and wedged between two high fences”. Elsewhere he cycles through a polytunnel – had the polytunnel been erected over a path, or had he made a navigational error? (I suspect the latter.) What about anyone working in the tunnel? In one chapter Humphreys indulges his reputation as an adventurer in a risky solo descent into a “denehole” (an abandoned mini- mine formerly used to excavate chalk). At least in that case he was only putting himself in immediate danger – though he took the precaution of texting his location to a friend in case he experienced difficulties.

Most of Humphreys’ travels did not involve anything so risky. With the aid of a smartphone app he seeks to identify the fauna and flora that he encounters – having admitted that his prior identification skills were poor. His observations extend beyond plant and animal life and take in every aspect of the built and natural environment. No detail is too small or too big for his attention – from



wondering why a bench has been placed in an apparently random location, to contemplating the large-scale-effects of human activity on the landscape. Much of what he sees leads to hours of internet searching to track down elusive back-stories. While observing the immense damage humans can inflict upon the environment he also acknowledges the ability of nature to reclaim habitats once people abandon them.

Towards the end of the book the author devotes a couple of pages to “Resources” and “Taking Action”. Both Slow Ways and the Ramblers Don’t Lose Your Way project are briefly mentioned, but I feel the book would have benefitted from a little more explanation of these initiatives. Prominent national organisations such as OSS and CPRE are not mentioned, though Freedom to Roam and Trash Free Trails are. Most significantly from a PNFS perspective, the responsibilities of Highway Authorities and how individuals can report path problems are not mentioned. (Early in the book he turns back on finding a well-used path blocked by a new metal fence, but makes no mention of whether he bothered to check if it was a PROW.)

All in all – notwithstanding the author’s inconsistencies – this is an entertaining book. It reflects the concerns that many people feel about the effect of global travel on the environment, while making a strong case for everyone to reconnect with their local surroundings. Humphreys acknowledges that he has changed his perceptions of his locality, and that in his opinion a single map can be enough for a lifetime of exploring. *Andrew Harter, Inspector for Leeds and Bradford, and Taylor House Volunteer*

## A walk in Lyme Park

Most PNFS members will know Lyme Park, a large National Trust estate in Cheshire on the outskirts of Stockport. Many walks are available through and round the park, and many PNFS guided walks have been held here. The downside is that the park can get very busy, particularly at weekends and especially around the house (Lyme Hall), car park and café. This short walk avoids all these honeypots and traverses the park and surrounds from North to South.

Start from Disley, easily accessed by train from Manchester and Stockport and by bus from Stockport and Buxton. Follow the Gritstone Trail signs from Disley Station, up the steep steps and into Green Lane (OS map ‘Dark Peak’). Continue to enter the park at East Parkgate and walk along the road with views extending into Lancashire. A sign on the left mysteriously shows ‘Cater’s Slack’. Cross and follow a thin path over the moor to a stile ahead which accesses Lantern Wood. Walk behind and above the Lantern building to a ladder stile out on to the open moor of the deer park. Turn downhill and follow the edge of the park to enter Knightslow Wood. Turn immediately left and follow the edge to the far corner where another ladder stile gives access to a path leading to Paddock Cottage. Here there is a fine view to the south over Cheshire.

Descend from the cottage to the avenue leading to West Parkgate, where you exit the park and turn left down to the Macclesfield canal. From here either turn south to Wood Lanes where there is a café (pub sadly now closed) or right to Higher Poynton where there is a pub. From either venue the infrequent 391 bus will return you to Stockport (or Macclesfield). At the time of writing buses in both directions run around 2 pm and 4 pm so time your arrival accordingly.

The walk is around 5 miles. Easy going apart from the three ladder stiles.

*John Fisher, Assessor*





Saturday walks have been discontinued due to lack of support.

**Wednesday, 12 March** (Short) David Gosling 07841647275 [davidgosling@pnfs.org.uk](mailto:davidgosling@pnfs.org.uk). Chelford to Knutsford. 8 mile rural rable through fields and lanes finishing with unusual architecture around Knutsford. Train from Manchester Piccadilly at 10.06 arriving Chelford 10.38 when walk starts. Return to Manchester is by train from Knutsford SK11 9GG

**Wednesday, 26 March** (Long) Walk leader required

**Wednesday, 9 April** (Short) David Morton 01612 837824 [davidmorton@ntlworld.com](mailto:davidmorton@ntlworld.com). Whaley Bridge circular. Easy 6 miles from Whaley Bridge station via Whitehough. Train leaving at 9:51 from Manchester Piccadilly arrives Whaley Bridge 10:32. Walk starts from the station at 10:45 SK23 7AA.

**Wednesday, 30 April** (Long) Walk leader required.

**Wednesday, 14 May** (Short) John Fisher 07432 825624 [johnfisher560@btinternet.com](mailto:johnfisher560@btinternet.com). Adlington to Macclesfield. 7 miles over White Nancy. Train from Manchester Piccadilly to Adlington (Cheshire) at 09:46 arriving at 10:10. Walk starts from Adlington station at 10-15. SK10 4NE.

**Wednesday, 28 May** (Long) Walk leader required.

**If you would like to lead a walk, please email your walk details as below**

Short walks are usually 5-9 miles long - [r.myddelton1@ntlworld.com](mailto:r.myddelton1@ntlworld.com).

Long walks are usually 9-12 miles long - [kensmith4rj@icloud.com](mailto:kensmith4rj@icloud.com).

*In Buxton before  
the PNFS Christmas  
combined walk commenced  
on 11 December 2024.  
Photograph by Ross  
Myddelton*





# S001, S547 and S548 - Before and after repainting by Steve Brown



Before

After