

Magazine of the Peak & Northern Footpaths Society

Signpost

Number 85 - Autumn 2025



S638 Bashall Eaves, Ribble Valley
Photograph by Shirley M Addy



From the Chair

Since our last *Signpost* magazine was published, we have held our Annual General Meeting in May. This has always marked an important milestone in our calendar, bringing together members, officers, and Trustees to discuss the work we have accomplished and the expectations ahead. During this meeting Trustees were reappointed which underscored the continuity and dedication that are at the heart of our Society. I am grateful to all our volunteers for all they do but am aware that succession to key roles remains a risk.

Since the AGM I am pleased to report that we have appointed two new Trustees, Martin Pugh (Treasurer) and Bruce Westwood. These welcome additions will strengthen our governance and expand the breadth of perspectives guiding our society. Martin will take over the reins as treasurer after a period of induction. Paul Easthope has undertaken the role of Treasurer for thirteen years, giving many hours of his time. He has nurtured our financial position and hands over a healthy bank balance and investment portfolio. We thanked him at the AGM but I repeat that gratitude and recognition here. He deserves a rest but will remain as a Trustee.

In addition, the AGM witnessed the formal acceptance of our annual report and accounts, which offer a transparent overview of the Society's activities and financial health. This document not only celebrates our accomplishments but highlights areas where we must continue to direct our efforts to ensure that we fulfil our aims and have lasting impact. We also heard from an interesting speaker, Chris Wilman, who is an expert on the Goyt valley and to whom we are especially grateful as she stepped in at short notice.

The summer, which seems to be behaving as a proper summer this year, is a great time for walking and reviewing public rights of way. Our Footpath Inspectors record their findings in the society's Footpath Inspection Database (FID). Launched in 2018, the FID website was designed and coded by Roger Fielding, a long-time



member of PNFS. He has recently redesigned the website to enable faults to be recorded and tracked in more detail, as well as improving its visual impact. Simon Worrall (Inspection Co-ordinator) and Mel Bale (Membership Secretary) worked closely together and with Roger to ensure the successful launch of the new version at the beginning of July. Simon has also prepared extensive training notes, available via the HELP button on the FID overview webpage.

We continue to work to support the unblocking of paths, repairing and upgrading where appropriate, alongside Highways Authorities. A recent area of work is being led by Martin Hampar, one of our Courts and Inquiries Officers, to open up Brooks Drive in Trafford. Legal advisors have been engaged, and a hearing will take place in July. This is a process (public enquiry) which involves hours of work and we are grateful to Martin for his determination and endeavour. We look forward to seeing where this gets to.

I have mentioned before that I like to collect things, for example signposts on footpaths. There are 584 of these and whilst I have a long way to go in my recording (I have seen many over the years but am being pedantic about photographing them.). I recently enjoyed seeing the sign (see photo) between the Roaches and Hen Cloud I was also able to bag some Ethels and OS trig points on what was a very popular route.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer.
*Kathy Mclean
Chair*





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Half Year Meeting

Saturday 15th November
Carpenter Room
Sheffield Central Library

10.30 Welcome from the Chair

10.45 Update on the activities of the Society, including progress on the Five Year Strategy

12.00 Guest Speaker: **Morag Rose**
Morag Rose is a walking activist, founder of the Loiterers Resistance Movement and a senior lecturer in Human Geography at the University of Liverpool. Her book, "The Feminist Art of Walking" will be published in October.

More details at pnfs.org.uk/HYM



AN APOLOGY

The cover of the Annual Report and Accounts 2024 had a photograph of PNFS's signpost 38.

Its caption gave credit to the wrong person. The editor is happy to include a correction. It was David Morton, Signpost Officer who repainted the sign and also took the photograph.

The Nottingham Rock and Heather Club, 1953-2023



With our local area of activity being the Peak District we had affiliation to the PNFS for many years. How do I summarise the activity of hundreds of people in total over 70 years in just a few paragraphs? Read on...

The 'R&H' as it became commonly known, was formed on 28th October 1953, by a small group of 18-20 year-olds, members of the Beeston, Nottingham YHA Group, who had become disillusioned by the restrictions put on them. Clubrooms progressed from a (smelly!) room near the Co-op's hide and skin yard to the well remembered Generous Briton Pub in Nottingham, thence via a number of similar pubs to our most recent meeting place at The Vat & Fiddle, near Nottingham Railway Station.

In the early years transport to the hills was difficult, primitive even, by todays standards. A combination of buses and trains were used, plus limited car and motorcycle ownership. This was supplemented for a few years by the club bus, an ancient Bedford Dormobile (remember them-Bangers and Cash or what?) which, after many repairs, finally met its end when the MOT test was introduced! Even so regular meets were enjoyed in Wales, the Lake District, and Peak District. During the late 1950s to early 1960s, we had our own club hut, a converted first floor barn behind The Prince of Wales Pub in Baslow, well situated for the Eastern Edges (and the bar!). We lost the use of this when it was dismantled to extend the car park, sadly a sign of the times.

Predictably, considering the age profile of members, many couples met and married via the R&H. They have happy memories of mass family Bank Holiday camping meets on a farm near the Welsh coast, one tap and one toilet being the accepted standards of the day. Glamping had yet to dreamt up! Over the years, people left and others joined, transport becoming easier as a result of increasing car ownership. Climbing featured as much as walking for some time, but hill/mountain walking became the norm from the middle years. Small group ski trips also featured.

Our affiliation to the BMC gave us use of other clubs' huts in England and Wales, usually one weekend in three in the winter. We well remember the pre-Internet and social media days and the rush to be early at the Tuesday evening pub night to ensure your name was on the list

for the next weekend away! It is hoped that these clubs and their properties continue to thrive. The warmer months saw continuing camping trips in all our upland areas, including to the Scottish Munros. A highlight of the year was the annual Christmas dinner, either self-catered at a large enough club hut, or catered for at a suitable Youth Hostel.

The 1960s onwards saw trips to the European Alps, followed in later years by small groups trekking in the Himalayas and worldwide as commercial adventure companies made these available. Nor should we forget our Peak District 'back yard', where groups were out most weekends on a typical 12-15 mile circular route, supplemented by the occasional linear challenge walk, such as the Marsden to Edale, Eastern Edges Flouch to Robin Hood, each done with borrowed minibus support, or the Edale Skyline.

We celebrated our 40th year in 1993 by walking 40 Peak District Dales over a few weekends plus the 40 miles of the Derwent Watershed, see Kinder Low photograph. The year 2003 followed a similar theme by our walking 50 Peak District Edges, plus 50 of the Wainwrights on a weekend based in Keswick. It could be said that we enjoyed the Peak at the best time, before footpaths were eroded and before the era of TikTok and 'influencers'. At this time, there was a Yearbook detailing our activities, the best of which was that for 2003 entitled 'The Rock & Heather Years 1953-2003' with contributions from members of every era. In 2013, we produced a 60th anniversary Slideshow on disk, with hundreds of items from those black and white days onwards.

A consistent membership of 40-50 people in the years up to about 2010 unfortunately declined steadily for the usual reasons; career moves, family commitments, and of course age! With few new arrivals, the sad decision was eventually taken to wind the club up, which we did on its 70th anniversary on 28 October 2023. We were pleased to donate our remaining funds to a Scouts' training group, three local mountain rescue teams (Edale, Kinder and Buxton) and sponsor our own PNFS sign 654 at the Northern end of Longstone Moor.

Happily some of us still meet socially each month. There is also a group calling themselves The R&H Oldies, from the 1950s-60s era, which meets periodically for a meal and a reminiscing session. Add to these a number of ex R&H-ers who over the years have emigrated to Canada, Australia and New Zealand who are still in touch via the internet and social media. This is typical of the long-term friendships made over the years by members of The 'R&H'. We hope we would be seen by those early R&H folk to have kept up their standards in our different ways.

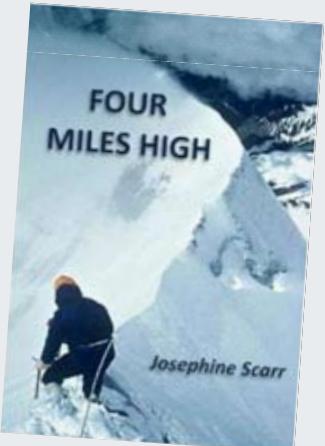
Gordon Richards, Honorary Member





Four Miles High

By Josephine Scarr, first published 1966 by Victor Golancz Ltd, republished 2021 by The Pinnacle Club



One of the founding members of the Pinnacle Club was the mountaineer Dorothy Pilley who featured in a previous review of "Wildly Different: How five women reclaimed nature in a man's world".(see *Signpost* number 84 – Summer 2025)

The edition read for this review was published in 2021 to mark the centenary of the founding of this climbing club for women. It has a new cover, and contains a number of excellent colour photographs and hand-drawn maps.

The book is a retelling of the journey taken by, 'two resolute women British women in their early 20's...bought a Land Rover, took a rudimentary maintenance course, and drove the vehicle from the UK to India to make their first expedition to the Himalaya.' (p9)

The two women in question were Barbara Spark and the author, Josephine Scarr. The book details the preparations and journey they undertook to carry out what was to become the 'British Women's Kulu Expedition 1961'. As Lindsay Griffin states in his specially written Foreword, this 'is a book defined by Scarr's palpable enthusiasm and unfazed attitude, in an era where this sort of adventure held significant barriers for women.' (p10)

What is striking about this book is the sheer determination of those involved to not only climb but carry out exploration of remote areas in the Himalaya. With financial support from a variety of sources including the Mount Everest Foundation and the Royal Geographical Society, plus their own savings they set out.

Jo Scarr started climbing at Almscliffe, North Yorkshire and as a student had wanted to join the thriving mountaineering club at the University of Cambridge. To her dismay, it was, 'strictly men only'. (p18). She joined the Pinnacle Club with their climbing hut in Cwm Dyli in Nant Gwynant and devoted as much of her spare time as possible to climbing.

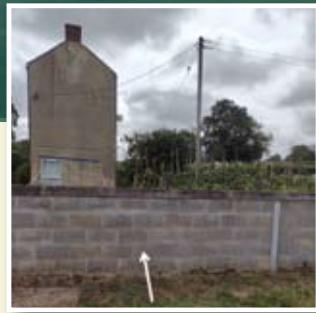
This is a fascinating book and very much an account of a journey and experiences that very few women would have undertaken. They drove through countries that today would not be possible to traverse and were able to assemble a team of porters and sherpas many decades before the commercialisation of climbing in the Himalaya. The accounts of their team and the work of the porters and sherpas are fascinating. As Scarr says, 'incredibly sturdy, resourceful, willing and cheerful under all conditions, the Sherpas were the best companions one could possibly have on any expedition.' (p152)

Reading a book about such ground-breaking adventure I became immersed in the drama, excitement, and sheer determination of these incredible women. The people they encountered along the way are brought to life through honest and unsentimental writing. This is very much a book of its time, but very enjoyable nevertheless.

Pauline Williams, Member

Group Inspections

Following the announcement in the previous issue of *Signpost* and email sent to all members in late June, PNFS's first group inspections were held in July 2025.



2 July led by Ken Brockway. The first group inspection report should have been David Gosling's but late publicity resulted in that inspection being postponed. David F, John E, Richard V and myself met up in Rocester as parking looked challenging in our primary location **Marston**

Montgomery (MM). I had planned and circulated suggested routes so with little need for arm twisting we agreed to work in pairs to maximise paths inspected. The routes of three to four miles would all meet up for lunch at MM church. David offered to take one car to MM walking initially with Richard. John and myself were dropped off outside the village to follow our route. I was delighted to find that both parties arrived together at the church lychgate. It was also appreciated that two good seats were available.

Our morning walk found a fair number of issues and little use of most paths although closer to the village there were signs of regular use on some, dog walking we guessed. John and I had had a few serious issues and twice had to backtrack due to obstructions and in other locations we were forced to deviate from the definitive line. Some paths were signed from the roads with a mix of modern metal posts or old wooden posts but many were unsigned. There was also evidence of past improvements with overgrown stiles and faded waymarking. We concluded that there were very few visiting walkers perhaps caused by the close proximity of the Peak District or the lack of public transport and car parking. There is a good recorded network of paths which can offer good linear or circular walks mostly across pasture with some nice views. One answer would be to promote the area.

After lunch we mixed the groups. Richard and I had a most enjoyable walk back to Rocester with far less problems than we had encountered during the morning. Again both groups arrived back at the car park together for a quick transfer of information with both agreeing their afternoon walk had been better than the morning. A useful and enjoyable day's inspecting. We still have to consolidate the fault reports and then I will make reports to Derbyshire and log on the Footpath Inspection Database (FID) which was down for the upgrade. Thanks to David, John and Richard for joining in on this first group inspection which we hope will become a regular event.

Photograph: Marston Montgomery FP2 the path is blocked by a wall but it needs diverting as it passes very close to the farm house.

Ken Brockway, Footpath Inspector

11 July led by Shirley Addy. On this very hot day at 9 am two groups started off from Pleasington railway station. My companion was Eva P, and the other group comprised Simon W and my husband, Jim. I gave out two maps with the routes highlighted, so the men did the east side of Pleasington parish and the women the west one (including a few in the neighbouring parish of Houghton). It was arranged that both groups would repair to one of the village's two pubs at noon.

The women walked 6.3 miles and found three faults: a loose signpost finger, no roadside signpost and one stile that had its upper step missing (which was recently reported to PNFS via Path Checker). One stile was rather overgrown so I cut back some bramble and hawthorn with secateurs.

The men had the short straw as their route was quite messy in several parts. During their 7.5 miles walk they encountered 9 faults, most of which involved paths being obstructed by dense vegetation. Photographs taken by Simon shows examples of overgrowth.

Both groups met at Butlers Arms a few minutes late. After a round of drinks, the men inspected a few more paths that were nearby.

We found Pleasington living up to its name with great countryside and views. Back to business, we covered 16 out of Pleasington's 20 PROWs and encountered a total of 12 faults over nearly 14 miles. All these were entered on PNFS's FID and fault reports sent to Blackburn with Darwen's PROW department. By the time this *Signpost* is published, I will have inspected a few remaining PROWs to complete Pleasington parish.

Thanks go to David Gosling for suggesting group inspections. As well as having the pleasure of socialising with other people, my inspection produced the desired result for PNFS. As members will be aware, there is a huge number of areas that have not been recorded by the society. I plan to hold another group inspection at the end of August or early September.



Lessons Learned - David Gosling

As the reports above indicate the first group inspections were a success, but we can learn some lessons from this early experience.

1. Group Inspections are an enjoyable and sociable way of extending PNFS capacity to inspect PROWs in areas where we currently have little or unreliable information about the PROW network.
2. We need to keep a record of Group Inspections so that we have data on numbers attending an areas covered.
3. Leaders need to record on the FID when reports derive from Group Inspections.
4. Recording the data is quite an onerous task, which group leaders have to commit to.
5. The pool of members and inspectors involved needs to be considerably expanded if group inspections are to survive over a long period.

Please add your name to the list of people who will be notified when Group Inspections are planned. Email me davidgosling@pnfs.org.uk to add your name and mobile phone number.

The first week of July saw the first major upgrade of the society's Footpath Inspection Database (FID) since it was first released in 2018. We owe its designer and developer, Roger Fielding, a huge debt of gratitude for all the painstaking effort he has expended over many months that led to the creation FID Version 3! Prior to its release, Simon Worrall and I thoroughly tested the new system to ensure that, as far as possible, it satisfied our requirements and was fault-free. This gave me an opportunity to take a closer look at the database that underpins the code, and, in particular, the information it holds about the 1415 parishes covered by the society.

This set me thinking about a number of things, for example how many parishes don't have footpath inspectors, which ones have the most paths/bridleways, etc. Those members familiar with the FID will know it shows an overview of the 53 Highway Authorities (HAs) covered by PNFS. Each HA is subdivided into parishes, and each parish is further subdivided into public rights of way (PROWs), mainly footpaths and bridleways. The FID doesn't display the counties it covers, but the table below shows the number of parishes, areas and the count of parishes with inspectors across them.

County	HAs	Parishes	With Inspectors
Cheshire	3	333	171
Derbyshire	9	291	229
Greater Manchester	10	76	44
Lancashire	14	245	114
Merseyside	6	37	21
South Yorkshire	4	125	26
Staffordshire	2	200	46
West Yorkshire	5	108	49
Total	53	1415	700

Our parishes range enormously in size and the number of PROWs they contain. Our smallest is Chester Castle at just over 4 hectares (ha), and there are 16 whose area is less than 100 ha. If cities such as Leeds, Bradford and Manchester, which are largely unparished, are excluded, Bradfield (Sheffield) is by far our largest parish at 14,286 ha.

12 parishes have no PROWs, and 129 have 5 or less. Bacup (Lancashire - Rossendale) has the most with a staggering 662, but Todmorden has the greatest overall length at 225 km.

As you can see, the FID contains a mine of information. If any member would like any specific information, please just email me (membership@pnfs.org.uk).
Mel Bale, Membership Secretary and Trustee

A walk through Edale



The village we call Edale is really Grindsbrook Booth with a railway station that serves the Vale of Edale. It's a useful place to start a joint east west walk as trains from Manchester and Sheffield arrive at about the same time. The west side contingent were waiting on the platform when the walk leader stepped off the on time train from Sheffield. It was a glorious sunny day with a gentle cool breeze a good day for walking. The destination was Bamford for a pint in the Anglers community owned inn which had had a report of new launch but that was delayed and it was later discovered closed. So after consultation with the party we agreed to add a loop and end at Hope.

We headed north to turn east at the Nags Head and over the ancient pack horse bridge, a recent Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) application by PNFS as strangely the path is not recorded as having any public highway rights. It was good to see the notices still in place although as two walkers turned north along FP32 they do perhaps add to the confusion here. A good track leads to and through Ollerbrook Farm where a bunk house barn and other holiday accommodation is available. The path along the northern slopes of Edale offers a good view across the valley to the more popular ridge walk with the dip at Hollins Cross pronounced in the scene.

Half way to Nether Booth we turn north. Two paths here are shown on the definitive map, 29 and 36 but neither follow the walked route which is signed by an early Peak District National Park cast sign, a poor copy perhaps of the long established PNFS signs, 'Footpath to Open Country' and shown on OS maps as a black dash line. I note that D.G, Gilman, as clerk, put his name on the sign. There is much correspondence bearing Mr Gilman's name about the creation of the Definitive Map when he was clerk to Derbyshire County Council.

Definitive path 36 might lead to open country, path 29 heads to a dead end in woodland while the black dash line leads to a gate into access land and a marked permissive path. The increased elevation improves the view as we head for Edale Youth Hostel passing briefly out of access land but safe on the permissive path. Little sign of activity at the hostel but lots of vehicles No suggestion they offer services to passing walkers.

We cross Lady Booth Brook before returning to a definitive path, so who maintains the bridge? At Clough Farm we could climb to Jammers Clough but instead double back along an ORPA (Other Route with Public Access) and use the road to find the unsigned start of FP26. A new gate and some home made signs confirm this to be a footpath but signs painted on the side of a shed are misleading even though the path is well maintained, some stay on the track, the recorded path. Another permissive path takes us to the south of Upper Fullwood Farm when we should pass directly through the yard.

From Bagshaw Bridge another permissive path takes us along the north bank of the River Noe. A path that offers a delightful view of the river as it tumbles over rocks. In the shade of trees we find a fallen tree to use as a seat for lunch. On the move again crossing the road and railway to take FP23 which starts trapped behind a fence but soon opens out to cross open pasture close by the Noe on the west bank.



Crossing the railway yet again the bridge name, 'Glossop Road', suggests an old route over the Pennines. Looking south from the bridge to Earles sidings offers a view of cement trains about to depart from Hope works. A blot on the landscape, to some, employment to others, the works open in 1929 by Earles which later became Blue Circle, then Lafarge and now Breedon a name well known as quarry operators in Leicestershire. The trains take a good proportion of the finished product off site and perhaps bring in the fuel along a private branch line from the sidings. Pete recalls lines of coal trucks and speculates if they now use oil in the kilns. The web later tells me that the use of chipped tyres and petroleum coke was trialled in 2002/2003 and in 2010 sewage pellets were burnt instead of coal. Present day fuel is not confirmed but in 2006 the whole of the Peak District National Park emitted 1,648,890 tonnes (1,817,590 tons) of CO₂, 65% of which was emitted by the cement works at Hope.

Our final following of the Noe was from Killhill Bridge passing a mill, now a home, to Station Road. We take a short break for water and final flask contents on a handy seat at Aston Lane, now on our loop to make ten miles and ending at Hope. After setting off again I realise I'd left the phone on the seat so we all head back and there it sits safe and sound awaiting my collection. The Old Hall was busy but offered good end of walk cheer.

Pete and John study trains on the phone and soon discover the proposed train home is delayed on way to Sheffield so will be late back to Manchester. No wait! Latest news



Considerations for selecting locations for PNFS signposts

Only five new signposts have been erected in the last twelve months and none since July 2024. Following my plea to members at the recent AGM for more suggestions for new signpost locations, here is the list of things to consider when looking for one.

If you find a suitable location, please contact David Morton, Signpost Officer on signposts@pnfs.org.uk.

We always need

- The landowner's consent, so try to get it or at least their contact information. Parish council clerks can tell you who the landowner is. Alternatively forward the PC clerk's contact details to David.

We like the Signposts to be

- At a junction of footpaths and/or bridleways in walking country.
- Accessible for installation and future maintenance.
- In parishes and areas which have few or no existing PNFS signposts as silent ambassadors. Many members have joined because of our signposts. They are tangible evidence of the work we've been doing for the last 130 years.
- Very close to a wall or fence if in a field used by horses or cattle.
- In the shelter of trees, which protects them from UV and minimises the need for repainting.
- In locations where lost walkers face potential danger, eg those wilderness areas regularly visited by Mountain Rescue Teams in bad weather.

We like to avoid

- Locations near busy roads or roads treated with salt in the winter, eg A57.
- Locations adjacent to existing footpath signs.
- National Trust (NT) estates, if they ban memorial plaques (eg S526 above Alport Castle, donated by the Friends of the NT).
- Locations where vandalism is a known problem.

David Morton, Signpost Officer

the train is cancelled. Pete has a plan. Ken heads off for the next Sheffield train, shown as on time and see the Manchester Northern train displayed as 'on time' but then pass through the station 'out of service'. Pete and Mike, with another Manchester bound passenger that Pete has just made acquaintance with dash over the bridge and pile into the Sheffield bound train. I say pile in because we discover standing room only due to a cancelled Cleethorpes bound Trans Pennine. Three bikes are added to the packed aisles at Bamford and an announcement asks that standing passengers remove backpacks. No chance our tickets will be inspected.

We arrive Sheffield, platform 7 and the Manchester express leaves from 6 with just minutes to spare. It's running a little late, phew! I anticipate a good wait as we should have passed my departing connection as we entered the platform. But, the display offers news that my train is late so I manage it and even get a seat. A good and interesting day but what would we do without phones to help with last minute changes to our carefully planned day?

Ken Brockway, Footpath Inspector

S385 - a signpost story with a happy ending

Over a year ago in January 2024, I was notified that signpost 385 had disappeared and asked our nearest footpath inspector, Hugh Stewart, to investigate. We erected 385 in September 2010, in a tranquil spot by a beck, near to the C of E Church of the Good Shepherd at Lowgill in Tatham CP. At the time it was our most northerly signpost in an area lacking PNFS signs. It came about because a member of PNFS wished to commemorate her mother's 90th birthday and I wanted to spread the reach of our signposts.

Between 1927 and 1931 Esther Horsfall had, from the age of 7, walked over two miles each way from her home at Higher Thrushgill farm to the old church school and back. The old school, behind the church, is now the village hall. I got the name of the landowner through the clerk to the parish council and he consented to two of our signs; the second 387 being upstream, half a mile south of Stairend Bridge.

Esther's daughter Jean was able to take her and other relatives to see the sign, while she was still fit to travel. I enjoyed my inspection visits, crossing over the fells north of Slaidburn with nice views of Ingleborough, after visiting our signposts in Bowland. I was once given a guided tour of the church by the sexton John Wilson. Although the neighbouring signpost 387 suffered minor vandalism in 2013, I thought that 385 was "safe as houses" in its tranquil backwater.

I made several phone calls to the new landowner and Parish Council, who both searched for it, but got nowhere. I notified Jean Horsfall and added a replacement memorial plaque for Esther to 387 in September 2024. Then in March 2025 the new landowner phoned me to say that the signpost had been found some distance upstream in the beck, then Richard Wilson, a Tatham Parish Councillor, who maintains and waymarks the parish paths, phoned me to say that he had reinstated it after fixing the plate and plaques to a short but sound post, saving me making at least one and possibly two long trips and re-cementing my faith in Tatham Parish Council.

Our best guess is that it was a vandal or vandals wot dun it, ditto 387 twelve years ago.

David Morton, Signpost Officer



Inspecting parishes with no inspector

We have excellent coverage of inspections in the Peak District but get further away from our base and knowledge of path condition becomes patchy. It is for this reason that David Gosling has suggested we make flying visits to other locations to inspect. This could be as a group walk or perhaps alone or with a friend. The latter is what John Kidd and I did in the South Derbyshire parish of Foston and Scropton parish in March, but I'm not sure if John considers me a reliable walking friend after our expedition.

We walked just six miles and the next day I spent the morning using the clunky Derbyshire report form to log thirteen faults - there could have been more. I had warned John to expect issues because I had walked the parish only a few weeks previous, so we went prepared to take some action and our efforts avoided more reports.

I offer a few examples of issues found. Foston and Scropton FP14 beat us, two fences with unprotected barbed wire and a very rotten ditch crossing. I'm not sure if the lone fence rail is supposed to be a stile. We diverted onto Foston and Scropton FP15 where with care we did cross the dilapidated bridge rather than turning back. Our efforts at hedge trimming revealed boundary crossings in need of a report, I refuse to describe these as stiles.

Recently, I had the following from the County ROW inspector. "I have inspected the area and sent out many communications to landowners with more to go next week, I am due to meet a highways inspector regarding the roadside obstructions. I am meeting with landowners in the area, I can update you, but we are moving to a new system where I will inspect and an enforcement team carries out the rest so updates will be from that office."

Ken Brockway, Footpath Inspector



More photographs follow on next page

S118 before and after cleaning

An excellent example of what a good clean does for our “silent ambassadors”.

S118 was cleaned and photographed by Chris Davies (Area Officer for Cheshire East)



S250 and S493 before and after



Photographs taken by Steve Brown show the results of his restoration work.
Before and after.

Unusual stiles

I was intrigued by Janet Tibbit's article in Signpost 83 concerning the above. I shall certainly be getting hold of a copy of Gates and Stiles! The writer asks if any other clapper gates (aka tumbler gates) are known to members. I suppose the best known must be the one in Charlecote Park near Stratford-on-Avon. I came across one on the Herefordshire Way but cannot remember precisely where on the path. I am given to understand that Kenilworth boasts an example but as there are thought to be less than sixteen examples in the country as they are very rare beasts.

I might make mention here of two other rare stile types. At Litton Cheney in Dorset is found the turnstile. A primitive variety of the more familiar type can be found at Say Stadia consisting of an upright topped with two moveable arms. Found both on the path to the church and in a field boundary. The other is the tassel gate which I have only seen in the churchyard at Kingston near Lewes. This is a gate opening by means of a central pivot.

Finds like these bring enjoyment to a walk.

David Hilton, Honorary Member

Pendle's Countryside Access Volunteers install gate number 100!

Pendle's Countryside Access Volunteers have installed their hundredth Centrewire gate. The team, who work with Pendle Borough Council's Countryside Access Officer, have been installing the gates on Pendle's extensive public rights of way network for the last three years. The team includes Mark Chung and Simon Worrall, both PNFS Footpath Inspectors in the borough. The milestone gate was installed on the Pendle Way at Croft Top Farm in Roughlee, where the group replaced an old rotten gate with a new more accessible Centrewire gate.



Tom Partridge, Pendle Borough Council's Countryside Access Officer, said: "We are steadily improving access to Pendle's countryside thanks to these dedicated volunteers, who not only install new gates, but also clear overgrown paths, build steps, install small footbridges, carry out drainage work and provide way markers to help people find their way.

The volunteers have transformed the way we work and helped to make our limited budget for countryside access work accomplish far more than we ever did previously." Phil Riley, Pendle Borough Council's Green Spaces Manager, added: "The volunteers are a huge asset to the people of Pendle and beyond. They show real commitment to improving the rights of way network for everyone to enjoy."

Colin Unwin, one of the volunteers, added: "We often talk to people walking past while we are carrying out the work and many are surprised to hear that we are all volunteers. Some have noticed and commented on the improvements that have taken place in recent years, and it's really rewarding to get such feedback.

We are often surprised to hear how far some people have travelled to come for a walk in Pendle; so it's really important to make sure broken stiles are fixed and gates such as these Centrewire ones are installed, which are so much easier for people."

The Centrewire gates being installed by the volunteer group in Pendle had been supplied by Lancashire County Council. In May this supply arrangement was suspended by the County Council leaving Pendle to fund gates and other materials from its own very limited budget. When the Society's "Gates for Access" funding was mentioned by the PNFS Inspectors, a detailed proposal for funding was written by the Countryside Access Officer and submitted to Nigel Howe, PNFS Improvements Officer for review.

The request to fund 25 Centrewire gates, costing some £7,000 was recommended by Nigel Howe to the June meeting of the Society's trustees and was approved. As the gates will be fitted by volunteers some £6,000 of contractor costs will be saved and by funding such a large number of gates, PNFS will be making a significant contribution to improving access to the public rights of way in Pendle.

Progress on installing these gates will feature in a future edition of *Signpost*.
Simon Worrall, Inspection Co-ordinator

Memories of S085

I always find reading Signpost interesting and informative but issue 83 Spring 2025 was particularly poignant for me because on page 8 it featured S085 on Jacob's Ladder. As the plaque indicates, this sign is dedicated to the memory of Carolyn Burden, who was my partner.

We started walking together a few days after we met and a walk across Kinder was the first walk we did. I had walked there many times before but for Carolyn it was her debut. Fortunately for me, she loved it and it soon became her favourite place to walk and we spent many happy hours exploring the plateau.

Locally we walked in the Dark Peak and the White Peak and Carolyn took an interest in the PNFS signs we passed and particularly liked those with the logo in the top left hand corner.

We walked in the Alps and the Pyrenees, but when we came home, we always returned to Kinder Scout. In this country, she enjoyed our trips to the Lake District and we got within 25 of completing the Wainwrights when her illness finally overwhelmed her, she even managed 13 new Wainwrights while undergoing the rigours of chemotherapy, evidence of her indomitable spirit.

Prior to her diagnosis, we entered the annual Bullock Smithy Hike, a tough walk over 56 miles in the Peak District with around 7,000 feet of ascent, to be completed in 24 hours, and although we tackled many other challenge walks after that, that was the event she most enjoyed and came back to. She loved it so much she did 25 miles of it during her illness.

It is fitting that S085, bearing her memorial plaque, sits on Jacob's Ladder because it faces Bullock Smithy participants as they make their way down to Edale. She would smile if only she knew.

Chris Tarrant, Member



Errwood Hall and the Drowned Hamlet of Goyt's Bridge

by David Stirling, published 2025.



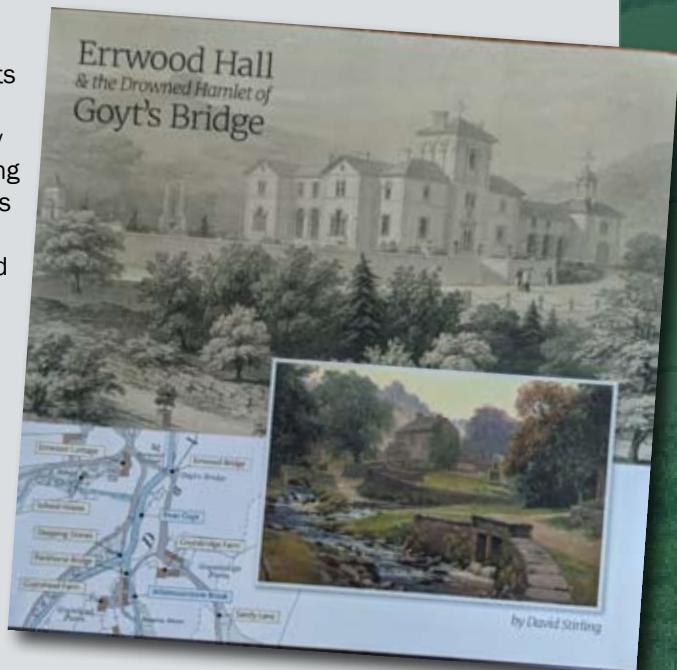
The hamlet of Goyt's Bridge now lies underwater. Its farms, cottages, mills and schoolroom were demolished in the 1930s to make way for the twin reservoirs of Fernilee and Errwood. Errwood Hall came down too, and its owners the Grimshawes had to move on, along with the families who worked for them. Author David Stirling tells the story of the people who lived in or around Goyt's Bridge and Errwood in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Today the area is peopled only by memories. In earlier times it bustled with activity – coal-mining and quarrying as well as farming and estate work, and a daily traffic of traders hauling stone, salt or cloth in and out of the valley by horse and cart. In Victorian times, the Goyt Valley became a tourist hotspot as the new railway to Buxton brought holidaymakers and day trippers in their hundreds. The farmhouses at Goyt's Bridge did a thriving trade in cream teas, and most of the visitors bought picture postcards as mementos.

These postcards, with other paintings, photographs and maps, pack the pages of David Stirling's new book. They bring back to life the lost community of the Goyt Valley, and detail the rise and fall of Errwood Hall and the Grimshawes. The book explains how a way of life, as well as a landscape, changed forever when Stockport Corporation decided to source fresh drinking water from the Goyt Valley.

The book is beautifully produced and presented. Its array of evocative pictures and information will greatly enrich your next walk among the moors, woods and ruins of the Goyt Valley.

To order copies and find out more about the places and people of the Goyt, go to www.goyt-valley.org.uk.
Judy Brown, Member



Signpost Report



S660 with John Hodgson and Bill Twigg.
Photograph by David Morton

Prospects and Signpost Donations

Suggestions for new signpost locations are still few and far between, but David Gosling has proposed a number in the area around Stafford, combined with a Group Footpath Inspection, so I am hopeful. It is four years since we erected 622 at Hopton, near Stafford County Showground, close to Hopton Heath, the Civil War battlefield of 1643. Other prospects for PNFS signposts have improved in two ways. First, there has been growing support from Footpath Inspectors and other members who have sent me photos and brief reports on our far-flung signposts, thus saving me long and polluting visits by car. Secondly a soon-to-retire “young man” at the AGM stepped forward and volunteered to help with a view to becoming my eventual successor.

We've also had two full donations. In March we had a donation of £800 from Stockport Walking and Outdoor Group for a memorial plaque on S614 at Hr. Lane and Cornfield Rd, Lyme Handley. In May, Chris and Kath Sizeland of the Friends of Chapel en le Frith Railway Station, donated £800 for S651, which will stand on the north side of the level crossing and shows the railway line painted in red. The Friends kindly arranged to scan the ground there for underground cables.

New Signposts

One new signpost 660 was erected a week ago with help from Footpath Inspector Bill Twigg, at Swynnerton Old Park, west of Newcastle under Lyme. It was the first new signpost since July 2024. Our website shows only 5 were erected in the last 12 months, which is one less than we managed to erect in 1933 during the Great Depression. It's a popular walking and horse-riding area and it's the only PNFS signpost for miles. The landowners, Forestry England, were very co-operative, as was the City of Stoke Football Club in unlocking its gate.



Lost and Found

385, which disappeared in late 2023 or early 2024, reappeared in March 2025 and was very kindly reinstated by Tatham PC's Richard Wilson and his volunteers, prompted by the new farmer/landowners, who found it upstream in the beck.



In late April I visited three of our signposts in Snake Woodlands. 56 above the A57 and 261 at the foot of Lady Clough were OK, but there was no sign of 10 nor the Forestry Commission sign which I'd attached it to in 2012, when I moved it from the roadside to give it some shelter from the corrosive effects of road salt. I noticed that large numbers of mature trees had also disappeared and eventually tracked it down to Forest England's depot up the hill above Darley Dale.

It has now been sandblasted and powder coated, highlighted and reposted, but while I was doing that I got two emails with photos showing me that someone had sawn through the post of 332 at Chanderhill, Holymoorside and stolen the plate. Holymoorsiders Facebook group is on the lookout for it. See photographs on next page.

Maintenance

My thanks to the following and others for their help with our signs this Spring : Steve Brown, Chris Davies, Peter Knight, Basil Merry, Simon Worrall, Mel Bale, Barry Tylee, Jenny Sibbons, Udo Pope, Rebecca Dolbear, Robert Watson, Kathy McLean, Ann Vernon-Haden, Shirley Addy, Bill Park, Debby Pickvance, John Harker, Roger Marks, Alan Horne, David Bratt, Bill Buckley, Basil Oldfield. I apologise for any omissions.

February

Cleaned and touched up 315, 433/4/6/7 and 557 at Common Barn and Ballgreave ruin, Rainow.

March

Cleaned and touched up 577, 296, 313, 274, 250, 493.

April

Cleaned and touched up 349 and 350 at Highfield Farm, Upper Booth, Edale. Replaced 93, which had been smashed by a hedge-cutter, at Hope. Touched up/cleaned 161, 178, 189, 269, 391, 623

May

Cleaned and touched up 56 and 261 in Snake Woodlands. Sought after, found and recovered 10. De-lichened and cleaned 585/6/7/8/9 and 590/1/2/3 at Mtn. Farm, Blacko and Hr. Gills Farm, Rimington. 638 cleaned. P2 and 639 repainted. 598/9 cleaned; 5 signs at Anglers Country Park cleaned. Cleaned, cleared and touched up 461 at Whatstandwell. 383 and 002/19/29 touched up.

June

255 touched up at Woodside Farm, Tunstead Milton. 280 on Kinder Rd.

David Morton, Signpost Officer

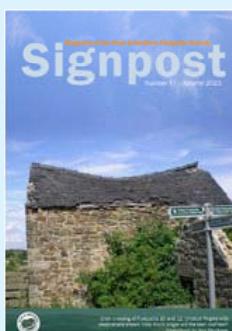
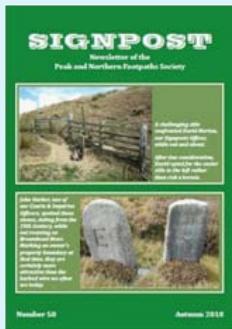
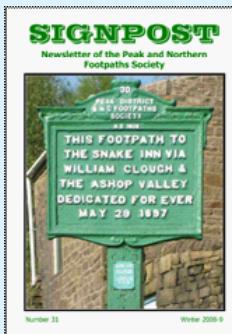


Has this way sign been stolen?. It's been sawn off and doesn't look like how you would remove it if in need of repair.





How *Signpost* goes to press



Have you ever wondered how a copy of *Signpost* is produced and finds its way to you? Well, wonder no more!

Our editor, Shirley, kicks off the process by setting the deadline for the submission of articles for the next issue. The deadline for this edition was 1 July. That may seem ridiculously early, after all, as I write this on the last day of June, Wimbledon has just begun. But, as I think you will see, the date reflects the amount of work that is necessary to ensure that *Signpost* arrives with our members more or less when they expect it.

Shirley has been very successful in encouraging a wider range of people to write for the magazine, and we are always on the lookout for new contributors. It has to be said that not everyone regards the deadline the same way, and there is often a flurry of emails as the date gets ever closer and sometimes beyond. Nevertheless, once sufficient copy has been submitted, the editor creates the first draft. This is shared with our designer/printer, Andrew Bucknall of Lymetrees Design and Print.

The society prides itself on working with local businesses as much as possible, and it has had a long-running and mutually beneficial relationship with Andrew. Members may have noticed that the design of *Signpost* changed a few years ago. This happened at the same time that our new website was launched. The trustees felt strongly that the 'look and feel' of the website and *Signpost* should be aligned as much as possible. We asked Andrew to come up with a new style for *Signpost*, and we were delighted with his ideas. He now has a template which he uses to transform Shirley's first draft into what you see before you. The design inevitably goes through a number of iterations until both parties are happy. At that point, the Chair and I are asked to proofread it and hopefully spot any mistakes that have survived the design process. Suffice to say, this somewhat arduous task is not always totally successful!

We have now reached the mysterious print stage. I say 'mysterious' because I'd never really understood what Andrew told me happened next, so I asked him and here is what he told me.

“Signpost is printed on a 5 colour lithographic press. Lymetrees don’t have their own press, but as the world of print is one of relationships and mutual agreements we buy time on press from another company. The largest paper size the press takes is B1 which is 720 x 1020mm. We print Signpost on oversize A1 (640 x 900mm). We fit 8 A4 pages on the sheet so it is possible to fit the whole of one copy of Signpost on one sheet, when printed on 2 sides. The press prints around 16000 sheets per hour and would just about fit in a domestic garage. This machine can print half a million A4 sheets in around 4 hours.

The colours are achieved by CMYK - each “section” you can see on the press has one colour on it, cyan, magenta, yellow and black. These 4 colours combined in different combinations make most available colours. The 5th section is used to produce colours outside of the CMYK spectrum, such as certain oranges and metallic colours, or for sealing. So for example, red is achieved with 100% magenta mixed with 100% yellow. PNFS signpost green is a mixture of cyan, yellow and black.

Arranging the pages onto the four printing plates in the correct page order is known as pagination and is the work of Pre-press. This work requires great skill and is bordering on alchemy! What we get back are four aluminium plates (one for each of CMY & K) which when printed in the correct order create the colour images in *Signpost*. Everything works to tolerances of less than half a mm, so setting up the press is the thing that takes the time and expertise.

Once the job is printed and dry enough to handle we ship it to a specialist company who are known as print finishers. Print finishers are the craft masters of the print trade and are often the ones who turn disaster into triumph. Their everyday work involves collating, folding, glueing, drilling and perforating. The finishers convert the single printed sheet into a folded and stapled booklet. At the final stage they pass the rough booklet through a 3 knife trimmer, which cuts the excess paper (called the bleed) from the top, bottom and front edges. Then we have our finished magazine.

Before I go I must add that *Signpost* would not happen but for the work of Shirley and Mel. Their diligence and utter professionalism is quite extraordinary, PNFS is very lucky to have them ”

I keep track of Andrew’s progress, and when he lets me know *Signpost* is nearly ready, I send him the addresses for mailing, renewal reminder letters and any other inserts. He organises the printing of the envelopes and letters, and carries out the packing and posting of over 700 envelopes.

Andrew’s final task is to send me the PDF of *Signpost*, which I add to the website. I generate an email to the membership which includes a weblink to the new issue.

If you have any thoughts about *Signpost* and/or would like to contribute to it in the future, please contact either Shirley (editor@pnfs.org.uk) or myself (membership@pnfs.org.uk), we’d love to hear from you.

I’d like to thank Andrew for his contribution to this article.

Mel Bale, Membership Secretary and Trustee



The Society and the early development of the Pennine Way

S384 on the Pennine Way at Torside Clough, Longdendale. Photograph from PNFS website



2025 is the 60th anniversary of the official opening of the Pennine Way (PW) and readers may be interested to know that the Society had a role in the PW's early development. I recently came across a guidebook that I had never seen before: *The Pennine Way – A Walker's Guide* by Chris Sainty published in 2014. The book has a chapter on Tom Stephenson who first proposed the PW in 1935. A further chapter reproduces the text of certain key documents from the late 1930s when the concept of the PW was gathering momentum. The most interesting one is the minutes of the Pennine Way Conference held at Hope, Derbyshire in February 1938.

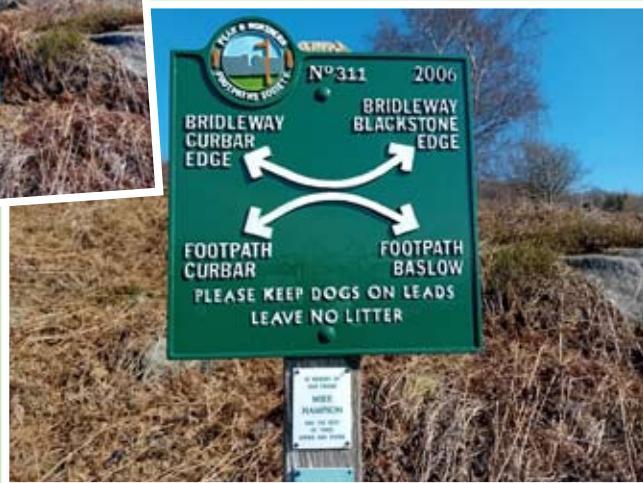
Our Society under the original name of Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society (PDNCFPS) was represented by T Boulger, Harold Wild, B Gill, GC Gradwell, and AW Hewitt. Several other participants (ER Royce, EE Ambler, and GHB Ward) who have been associated with the Society in various capacities were also present but representing other organisations. The minutes mention contributions from Boulger, Wild and Hewitt, as well as Royce and Ward, and conclude with a decision to divide the PW into sections, each of which would be surveyed by one or more organisations. PDNCFPS was to work on the Peak to Blackstone Edge section in partnership with three other organisations.

The Annual Report for 1938 records the Society having taken "a very active part in connection with the proposed Pennine Way" but gave no further details. The 1939 report mentions the purchase of one inch OS maps for the PW area – possibly for use in the aforementioned survey. Apart from these brief references I can find no further information about the Society's involvement in the early years of the PW in the Annual Reports from around this time. Doubtless WW2 put a brake on further work. The extent to which the Society was involved in post-war development of the PW would require further research through later Annual Reports and also Council minutes (which have not yet been digitised).

Finally, a minor mystery from shortly after the PW officially opened. Alfred Wainwright's Pennine Way Companion (first published 1968) named four men who carried out preliminary reconnaissance work on the author's behalf in 1965. One of these was Len Chadwick of Dobcross, near Oldham. Someone called L Chadwick was listed as a member in the Society's Annual Reports for 1960 to 1965. Are these the same person? We may never know.

Andrew Harter, Inspector for Leeds and Bradford, and Taylor House Volunteer

S310 and S311 restored



19 March 2025 saw signposts 310 and 311 having a clean and repaint by Steve Brown.

Plaques and Presentations

Ramblers who walk through Hayfield, from Saint Matthew's Church, and climb Kinder Road to Bowden Bridge, towards William Clough and Kinder Downfall, will pass a blue plaque, on a terraced house, that shows that Arthur Lowe, who played Captain Mainwaring in the popular television series called 'Dad's Army', was born in Hayfield. Who can forget the popular catch phrases used by the splendid actors such as: "Don't panic!"; "You silly boy!"; and "They don't like it up 'em!"? My late father served in the Cheshire Home Guard, during the Second World War, and was much amused by the storylines and the hilarious antics of the actors. He trained with fellow workers, from the Exors of James Mills, Bredbury, and his mother was always worried when he brought his rifle home.

Another Hayfield resident, who should be celebrated by a blue plaque, is William Walker of Farlands, Hayfield. Many ramblers, who follow paths around Hayfield, may not know that Walker was the chairman of the Hayfield and Kinder Scout Ancient Footpath Society that was founded in 1876; his friends included John Lithgow, Joseph Turner and Luke Garside. Walker, Lithgow and Garside, were all members of the Hayfield 'Good Templars' who held regular meetings in the village. It was reported (*Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter*, 1873, p8) that: 'On Saturday evening last, a number of the members of "Hope of Hayfield Lodge," No 1311, of the IOGT [International Organisation of Good Templars] met together in the Primitive Methodist School Room, where they held a social tea meeting.' It is possible that paths, around Hayfield, were discussed at these meetings and problems regarding access, experienced by residents and visitors, may have been considered too.

Newspaper readers were also informed (*Ibid*), about the 'Good Templars' meeting, that: 'After tea, Brother John Lithgow PWCT [Past Worthy Chief Templar], was called to preside, and the meeting having been opened, he gave an address.' The article also stated (*Ibid*) that: 'The Rev. John Goggins, city missionary, presented an illuminated and splendidly framed (in gold &c.) address, to W. Walker, Esq., of Kinder, for his kindness and assistance to them in their cause.' The names on the address included Luke Garside, DGWCT [Deputy Grand Worthy Chief Templar] and other members of the Hope of Hayfield Lodge. It is possible that, William Walker, who edited *The Guide to Hayfield and Kinder Scout*, that was published in May 1877, asked some of his friends, in the 'Templars', to describe a few interesting rambles, around Hayfield, that visitors would enjoy.

Walker was not the only resident of Hayfield to be held in high esteem. Visitors to the George Hotel, Hayfield, can see a framed testimonial, that was presented to Rachel Quarmby, in 1858, to mark 50 years as landlady; John Lithgow was the secretary of a committee that presented the testimonial. It was reported (L, 1861), in the *Glossop Record*, that: 'There is no one in the township lives more in the good opinion of the inhabitants than she does. Her well-known hospitality – her kindness of heart – her charitable disposition – and her unimpeachable character, added to her many other excellent qualities, have endeared her to the hearts of all, and gained her a name which will be remembered with feelings of most tender regard.'

Unfortunately, Mrs. Quarmby has not been honoured with a blue plaque at the George Hotel (previously known as the George Inn). Similarly, a visit made by Louis Jennings, the author of *Rambles Among the Hills*, to the Royal Hotel, in 1880, when Joseph Walton was the host, has not been commemorated either. In contrast, the efforts made by William Walker to establish the Hayfield and Kinder Scout Ancient Footpath Society, chair meetings, organise the preparation of a map, edit a guide to Hayfield and Kinder; and publish another edition, at his own cost, should be remembered and a blue plaque could be provided at his former residence in Hayfield.

Walker, of Manchester and Hayfield, was an accomplished artist, a good Christian, an ardent teetotaller and a keen rambler. He built a house at Farlands, Hayfield, and his son, W. Eyre Walker, helped to prepare a guide to Hayfield and Kinder Scout. Walker also provided occasional lectures such as 'The air we breathe' and he supported a bazaar to raise funds for the remodelling of the Wesleyan Chapel, Hayfield. It was reported (*Hyde & Glossop Weekly News*, and *North Cheshire Herald*, 1869, p4), about the aforementioned discourse, that: 'The lecture was accompanied by experiments illustrative of what was enunciated. In the experiments the air pump was used to point out some remarkable mechanical properties of air, and some of the chemical properties of its constituents, oxygen and nitrogen, were exhibited in the amusement and admiration of the audience.' Newspaper readers (*Hyde & Glossop Weekly News*, and *North Cheshire Herald*, 1869, p2) were also informed, about the bazaar at the Wesleyan Chapel, that: 'The school-room was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and on the walls hung a number of water-colour drawings and engravings that had been lent for that purpose by Mr. W. Walker, artist, Kinder.' It would be interesting to know if any of these art works have survived. Walker was passionate about art and he believed that children should be taught more, about drawing and sketching, in school. The talented artist occupied premises on King Street, Manchester, and The Whitworth, Manchester, has a drawing, that is unattributed, of his studio that was made during the latter part of the 19th century. Walker enjoyed following paths and tracks and he hoped that tourists, who visited Hayfield and district, would respect the countryside and was dismayed when he witnessed Sunday school teachers taking foxgloves from a bankside and stated that another tourist had collected 16 eggs, from the nests of moorland birds, during a ramble. Walker, and his friends, knew that the number of tourists, that visited Hayfield, had increased dramatically since the opening of Hayfield railway station in 1868. Unfortunately, the visitors, who arrived in the village, had no written guidance to help them during rambles so William Walker, and his colleagues, decided to prepare several itineraries, for excursionists, that would provide pleasant routes and prevent trespassing. It was hoped that tourists would purchase numerous copies of a pocket guide and that the cost of the engraving of a map, the purchase of a lithograph stone, and the expense of printing 1000 booklets, would be offset by sales and subscriptions to the newly formed Ancient Footpath Society.

The opening of Hayfield railway station greatly benefitted the village and allowed local residents to reach distant places. It was explained (*Glossop Times*, 1869, p5), about Hayfield, that: 'This place of very ancient date, but yet little known, owing to toll-bars, bad roads, and steep hills, was visited by a large number of people during Whit-week, and on Whit Saturday, seven long excursion trains arrived from Manchester and other places.' Newspaper readers (*Ibid*) were also informed that: 'Now that a railway is open the place will soon gain a notoriety.



Above: The Royal Hotel, Hayfield.
(Currently vacant and for sale or let).

Right: The George Hotel, Hayfield.
(Formerly known as the George Inn).

Below: Blue plaque, Kinder Road, Hayfield.
(The plaque marks the birthplace of Arthur Lowe)

Numerous tourists travelled to Hayfield and many walked to Kinder Scout to appreciate the region. Captain White, of Park Hall, Little Hayfield, was so concerned about trespassers that he erected signs to prevent excursionists, who had not obtained permission, from crossing his land. Other residents of Hayfield, such as publicans and shopkeepers, welcomed the influx of new customers and catered for the visitors. In particular, William Shaw, of the George Inn, and John Woolley, of the Royal Hotel, must have benefitted from increased custom. One can imagine the hosts, shopkeepers and local inhabitants, telling tourists about a mermaid that appears at a pool, on Kinder Scout, every Easter Sunday at 3 a.m., and if visitors catch her bathing, in her pond, they will become immortal and never die.

Ron Braddock,
Member



Footnotes

i Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter (1873) 'Good Templars' Presentation', 9 August, p. 8.

ii *Ibid.*

iii *Ibid.*

iv L. (1861) 'Hayfield', Glossop Record, 30 March, p. 3.

v Hyde & Glossop Weekly News and North Cheshire Herald (1869) 'Musical and Literary Entertainment', 16 January, p. 3.

vi Hyde & Glossop Weekly News and North Cheshire Herald (1869) 'Bazaar for the sale of useful and fancy articles in the Wesleyan school-room', 2 October, p. 2.

vii Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter (1879) 'Art in Elementary School', 11 October, p. 8.

viii Walker, W. [Edited by] (1877) *The Guide to Hayfield and Kinder Scout*. Manchester: John Heywood.

ix Glossop Times (1869) 'Hayfield', 29 May, p. 5.

x *Ibid.*

xi Hyde and Glossop Weekly News and North Cheshire Herald (1868) 'Hayfield', 6 June, p. 3.

Saga of S448



Here is a sequence of photos of the reposting of S448 at Haylee Farm, Combs. John Hodgson and I were tired after climbing the steep hill up to the farm for the second time, only for the farmer to fetch the heavy tools with his quad bike and trailer and then tell us gently that we'd bolted the signpost on the wrong way round, so we had to unbolt it, take the two posts apart and then reconnect them; all easier said than done. It reminded me, as my 83rd birthday looms, that "You are never too old to learn"! .

David Morton, Signpost Officer

PNFS walks



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

Wednesday, 10 September (Short) - Sue Davies 07967035784 suekercher@hotmail.co.uk. Hathersage circular walk following the River Derwent from Leadmill Bridge, Offerton and Callow Wood. 9:48 train from Manchester Piccadilly arriving Hathersage at 10:45 and 10:14 train from Sheffield arriving 10:32. Walk will start at 10:45. S32 1DT

Wednesday, 24 September (Long) - John Kidd j.ollid@hotmail.com. Alsager to Congleton walk. Starts at Alsager Railway Station via South Cheshire Way, Moreton Hall, Macclesfield Canal finishing at Congleton Railway Station. 10.5 miles. Train from 09.46 Piccadilly arriving at Alsager 10.49. Walk starts at 10.50 ST7 2XW

Wednesday, 8 October (Short) - Walk leader required. Short walks are usually 5-9 miles long. Please email your walk details to rossmyd@gmail.com

Wednesday, 29 October (Long) - Walk leader required. Long walks are usually 9-12 miles long. Please email your walk details to kensmith4rj@icloud.com

Wednesday, 12 November (Short) - Walk leader required. Short walks are usually 5-9 miles long. Please email your walk details to rossmyd@gmail.com

Wednesday, 26 November (Long) - Walk leader required. Long walks are usually 9-12 miles long. Please email your walk details to kensmith4rj@icloud.com

Photograph by David Morton shows the walkers on the April 2025 walk he led from Whaley Bridge. He recalled that "the walk went well, but we were a bit too early for the spring lambs and sadly The Navigation at Bugsworth has closed, so we used the former's outside table to eat our sandwiches then walked on to The Shepherds at Whaley, where the Marstons Pedigree was much appreciated. There were some complaints about the number and state of the stiles."





June 2025 short walk

Photographs by Ross Myddelton

