

THE
PEAK DISTRICT & NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION
SOCIETY.

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Hon. Sec. Hayfield Section : LUKE GARSIDE, Hayfield.

Hon. Sec. Sheffield Section : FRED H. DAVIES, 41 Bower-rd., Sheffield.

Gen. Hon. Secretary and Treasurer : L. CARADOC EVANS,
7, Warwick Avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester.

Minimum Subscription 2/6.

**No further liability attaches to
Membership.**

THE
PEAK DISTRICT & NORTHERN COUNTIES
Footpaths Preservation Society.

Origin of the Society. EVERY year, as summer comes round, the question of the right of access to Kinderscout is raised in the Manchester papers. It was once more re-opened during the early months of the past summer, and, among other contributions on the subject, an article appeared on the 24th July last in the *Manchester Guardian*, signed by "VERAX," which concludes as follows:—

"Kinderscout is only part of a larger question. North-east and South-east Lancashire is studded with vast populations, and the smoky towns where they dwell are in the midst of hills and moorlands. There are delightful resorts on every side, to some of which there is unmolested access, but the same process is going on as at Kinderscout. The moors are sliced up into shootings, and pedestrians are warned off. Some parts of Saddleworth where at one time anyone was free to roam are now held to be enclosed by an air-line visible only to the tenants, and pathways to the hill-tops which used to be well trodden are now stopped. The grievance is felt, but there is no authority whose special business it is to lodge a complaint and to see that old-established rights are respected. It is a matter of policy out of regard to the public health to keep the country as open as possible to the towns, and this can only be done by carefully guarding every right of way. It may very well be held that the corporations

of the towns have in this respect a duty to discharge which has hitherto been overlooked. The importance of providing open spaces in the towns is now generally recognised, and we are beginning to see the wisdom of taking time by the forelock when estates in the neighbourhood of the towns are in the market. The same care might be extended to a distance of fifteen or twenty miles round, not for the purchasing of land, but for the sake of seeing that existing rights are maintained. The Corporation of the City of London have done much of late years in the reclamation of ancient commons within easy reach of the metropolis. There are few such commons of any extent in Lancashire, but where there are any the town corporations should keep an eye on them. But every pathway which has once been open to the public is on the same footing and may claim the same care. The six hundred thousand people who live in Manchester have a direct interest in the preservation of these rights, and it might not be amiss if a small committee of the Corporation took charge of them. There need be no interference with the local authorities. The object would be to secure the maintenance of local rights in the interest of a larger public, and the parish and district councils, through whom the rural divisions of the counties will soon be brought under civic control, will doubtless have the same end in view. We venture to commend this wider question, along with Kinderscout, to the consideration of Mr. Bryce. He may be able to help us in his bill."

At a meeting held in Manchester on the 3rd August last, it was decided to form a Society, which should deal with the question of access to Kinderscout, and the rights of the public over footpaths and byeways.

On the following day a meeting was held at Hayfield, and on the 16th of the same month a further meeting was held in Manchester, when the Society was named the "Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society," with the following objects, viz:—

- (a)—The preservation, maintenance and defence of the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of public highways, footpaths, bridlepaths, byeways,

and other ways, vacant spaces, waste lands, and roadside slips, and to right of recreation over commons in the Northern and Midland Counties, particularly in the Peak District.

- (b)—The prevention of the abuse of such rights, especially trespass and damage to crops and property, and the disturbance of game by trespassers.
- (c)—The support by influence, petition or otherwise of Bills in Parliament promoting the aforesaid objects, or any of them, or others of a like or kindred nature.
- (d)—The purchase, or promoting the purchase of rights of way and rights over open spaces to be dedicated to the use of the public for ever.
- (e)—And all objects conducive to the foregoing, including the combination or co-operation with other societies or persons in the promotion or furtherance of the aforesaid objects, or any of them.

Managing Committee. THE expenditure of the funds, and the general business of the Society, is (subject to the direction of members as provided by the rules) under the control of the Managing Committee, which consists of the following members, viz. :—

Chairman, ABEL HEYWOOD, Manchester.
 J. F. ATKINSON, J P., Dore, near Sheffield.
 WM. BELL, Disley.
 ROBT. BURN, Wilmslow.
 JAS. B. COOPER, Horwich Bank, Whaley Bridge.
 HENRY T. CROOK, C.E., 9, Albert Square, Manchester.
 G. H. DAWES, M.D., 255, St. Philip's Road, Sheffield.
 GEORGE DENTON, I, East Parade Chambers, Sheffield.
 J. B. ELVERSTON, Oxford View, Heaton Chapel.
 EDWD. G. HILLER, II, Brundretts Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy.
 E. HOWARTH, Western Museum, Sheffield.
 WM. INGHAM, Osborne Road, Oldham.
 W. DALE JAMES, M.D., 271, Glossop Road, Sheffield.
 FRED. MARPLES, Linden House, Sale Street, Derby.
 A. W. MARTIN, M.D., Gore Brook House, Gorton.
 A. W. MASSEY, 27, Ackers Street, Oxford Street, Manchester.

THOS. MOWER, New Mills.

R. M. PANKHURST, LL.D., St. James' Square, Manchester.

Wm. S. PORTER, M.D., Glossop Road, Sheffield.

G. W. PARKER, 92, Nether Edge Road, Sheffield.

F. W. ROE-RYCROFT, St. James' Square, Manchester.

HAROLD SPENCER, 75, Thomas Street, Manchester.

T. L. TUDOR, 9, St. Chad's Road, Derby.

F. H. WARBURTON, 11, Lloyd's House, Manchester,
together with the Hon. Solr. and Hon. Secs.

**Progress
of the
Society.**

THE Society now numbers 600 members. Sections have been established in Derby, Hayfield, and Sheffield, with Local Hon. Secs. and Organising Committees, having power to appoint Investigation Sub-Committees to enquire into violations of local rights of way. It is intended that sections shall be established in other towns from time to time, so as to form a thoroughly representative society.

The Sheffield Organising Committee includes, in addition to the above named Sheffield members of the Managing Committee, the following, viz :—

W. H. ALLEN, 11, Priory Road.

W. COCKER, 6, Havelock Square.

M. J. DODWORTH, 5, Vieta Road, Broomhall Park.

Ald. GAMBLE, Southbourne Road (Ex-Mayor).

G. H. HARRISON, Clarkhouse Road.

Rev. R. J. PYNE, 5, Wharncliffe Road.

CHARLES ROBERTS, The Moor.

JONATHAN TAYLOR, 87, James Street.

P. S. WAINWRIGHT, London Road.

(All of Sheffield.)

**Kinderscout
right of way
from Hayfield
to the Wood-
lands,
Ashopdale.**

IN furtherance of the resolution passed at a General Meeting of the Society held on August 16th last, authorising the Managing Committee to take all steps they may consider expedient to obtain evidence as to the right of way over Kinderscout from Hayfield to the Snake Inn, Ashopdale, the Investigation Sub-Committee appointed to make enquiry and to obtain evidence has been steadily at work, and has made satisfactory progress.

The route claimed is undoubtedly the natural way from Hayfield to the Woodlands, Ashopdale, and passes along the northern slopes of Kinderscout, affording the pedestrian a fine moorland walk, with delightful views of Kindervale and the Downfall *en route*.

Unless the right to traverse it be preserved, anyone wishing to go between Hayfield and the Snake Inn will have to make a detour, involving an additional distance of six miles, and in great part along dusty highways.

Method of Procedure. THE Managing Committee have held several meetings, and have appointed Investigation Sub-Committees to obtain evidence as to rights of way which are in jeopardy. Every endeavour will be made to settle matters amicably with the landowners, but, failing such settlement, recourse will be had to the Law Courts.

The Managing Committee recognise that landowners and occupiers are often irritated in the touring season by reckless and mischievous trippers, who, forsaking the field or moorland path, trample mowing grass, destroy walls, frighten birds, and thus provoke owners and occupiers, in defence of their property, to go to the extent of illegally excluding the public.

The Society, by its rules, seeks to prevent damage of this kind; all then should join it who desire to preserve the ancient footpaths and open places for the legitimate enjoyment of the public.

Essentials to success of the Society. To be successful the Society must be strong in numbers and representative of all classes; those interested in its objects will best aid in securing their accomplishment by joining and inducing others to join the Society.

Direction Posts. THE Committee propose to erect, as funds permit, direction posts, indicating paths in the Peak District over which the public have a right of way.

**Subscriptions
and
Donations.**

SUBSCRIPTIONS of members, and also donations, may be paid to the credit of the Society at any branch of the Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank, Limited, or to the Hon. Sec. of the Derby, Hayfield, or Sheffield sections, or remitted direct to the Secretary or Treasurer of the Society.

October, 1894.

Extract from an Article in the "Manchester Guardian" of the 17th August, 1894.

"At a meeting held in Manchester last night the "Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society" was constituted, its officers chosen, and its rules adopted. This is the first tangible result of what may be called the Kinderscout agitation. The exclusion of walkers from the finest part of the Derbyshire hill-country has long been felt as a grievance, particularly in Manchester and Sheffield, but the outbursts of discontent have hitherto been sporadic and transitory, and nothing has been done. Now at last a serious combination has been formed, which will not, we may hope and believe, disappear until it has effected something solid. The subscription of 2s. 6d. is nominal, and every lover of nature in these parts should be a member. As the Chairman, MR. ABEL HEYWOOD, was careful to explain at last night's meeting, there was no suggestion of violence or even of "demonstration." The Society has been formed, in the first place, to preserve, maintain, and defend all local rights of way, in the Peak district in particular; in the second place, to prevent the abuse of such rights, among the "abuses" being included the disturbance of game by trespassers; thirdly, to support Bills in Parliament for the promotion of the objects

of the Society; and, fourthly and lastly, to purchase or promote the purchase of such rights. A General Meeting of the Society can undertake, to the extent of the available funds, to defray the cost of legal proceedings of which it approves, and the Managing Committee will give advice as to such proceedings. This Managing Committee will also keep a map, or maps, and register, in which all rights of way will be indicated and recorded, so that evidence may not be wanting whenever some new encroachment is attempted in a future generation. It will be seen that the Society is not exactly a revolutionary body, and indeed we are not altogether without hopes that the immediate object it has in view may be attained by a little friendly negotiation.

It appears to us that with two great communities like Manchester and Sheffield knocking at the gates, the present system of locking up the Peak against the world cannot be permanently maintained. The landlords concerned will in their own interest be wise to yield something, and so keep the rest. A little reflection must show them that the system at present pursued with Kinderscout makes the case an altogether exceptional and invidious one. More or less in the same district we find recognised rights of way over Axe Edge, the Windgather Rocks above Whaley, Lyme Moor, and the fine moors between the upper Derwent and the Don. In the Lake District almost all the mountains belong to private owners, and yet Helvellyn, Scawfell, and Skiddaw, are absolutely open. In Scotland there is the well-known instance of Goat Fell, on Arran Island. The mountain is actually a deer forest, and yet the Duke of HAMILTON allows anyone to walk there at any season of the year.

There is no other case of a mountain such as Kinderscout—or rather a mountain district, for it is no less,—at once famous, attractive, close to great populous centres, and blocking communication between neighbouring valleys, from every part of which the public are absolutely shut out. That is to strain legal rights and the English respect for property to the breaking-point. Consider the immense *detour* which anyone wishing or obliged to go from Hayfield to the Snake Inn or Ashopton has to make so long as Kinder is closed to him. To close a natural and easy pass which is the one and only direct means of communication between two human dwelling-places is surely a proceeding which ought to be

impossible and which, even if legally possible, no good man can defend. The accident of Kinder being a mountain, and the whole district sparsely peopled, is the one thing that has made such exclusion feasible. Wherever in the plain country a great estate covers anything like the same extent of ground there are roads and footpaths intersecting it in every direction. If the great owners in the plain had tried to make of their estates a solid impassable block, as its owners have made of Kinderscout, they would have been brought to their senses with a run. What has been done on Kinderscout has only been possible so long as public opinion was not seriously directed to the matter. In a plain country it would have been directed to it from a very early stage. In the mountains it has taken a long time; but the protest has come at last, and is bound to grow louder and more insistent as time goes on. In face of it a purely *non-possumus* attitude cannot in the long run be maintained.

Extract from an Article in the "Sheffield Telegraph" of the 30th August, 1894.

"The William Clough Road, now said to be completely closed, has an interest for the people of Hallamshire. In the old days the Rotherham butchers were in the habit of bringing their fat mutton into the Hayfield district from the Ashop Valley by this route. At a point on the Scout known as Turner's fold (a corruption of Turn-over fold) the Yorkshiremen "turned over" the sheep from the Hayfield district to their customers, and proceeded along the old beaten track to their destination. John Hyde, an old Peak worthy, who in the seventeenth century was a member of the Worshipful Company of Taylors, frequently used this road, it is stated, to bring goods on horseback from Sheffield, in connection with his London trade. The William Clough and Ashop route is stated by Mr. T. Mower (an authority on the subject) to be the natural pass between the Woodlands and Hayfield

valleys, and it is also a fact that the ruins of an erection built for the convenience of former traffic are still standing. Up to recent times the road from William Clough to the Snake Inn, which passes over Kinderscout, has been freely used as a bridle path, and nothing was done to close up the path until a few years ago. The people of Hayfield have crossed and re-crossed the Scout frequently by its means, and no objection has been taken to their action until a few days ago. Those who are well acquainted with the highlands of Derbyshire state that there is abundant evidence to prove the existence of a right of way, and it is highly probable that the legality of the action taken by those interested in the rearing of grouse will be tested in the Law Courts. One point in the argument of those who favour the aims of the Footpaths Preservation Society is easily capable of proof or disproof. It is stated that since the days of John Wesley it has been customary for his followers living at Hayfield, Chinley, and Kinder to attend the annual love feasts held in the Woodlands. These people, it is said, have invariably travelled by the road the right to use which is now disputed; indeed, had they gone by another route they would have been called upon to make a detour of thirteen miles. Thus the road across Kinderscout is a necessity in the interests of the inhabitants of the district."

Extract from an Article in the "Sheffield Independent" of the 13th September, 1894.

"The protection of Kinderscout for the pedestrian drew a large and enthusiastic audience last night to the Y.M.C.A. buildings. It is true that the opening of the new railway may have taken into the Edale district a certain number of tourists not over careful of the rights of farmers. But that is no reason why the undoubted rights of the peaceable pedestrian in search of healthy recreation should be jeopardised and destroyed. There can be little doubt that a

century ago many paths existed over Kinderscout, and even packhorse tracks for the conveyance of luggage. Those paths have for a variety of reasons been less frequented in the present generation, but to the jaded city toiler a climb on a hill which reaches nearly two thousand feet in height is a form of recreation not to be lightly valued, and the right of enjoying such relaxation must not be lost for the want of a little exertion. Effective organisation is, however, the condition precedent to success in a matter of this kind, and it is the more necessary as Manchester, Hayfield, Sheffield, and other places are all interested in this delightful piece of country. The Peak District Footpaths Preservation Society, of which Sir William Bailey, Mayor of Salford, is president, and Mr. Abel Heywood, chairman of the Managing Committee, is essentially an Association eminently qualified to focus public opinion and direct it into the proper channel, and we rejoice that a Sheffield branch has been formed under circumstances which promise so much success. Between three and four hundred members had been enrolled before last night's meeting, and the Sheffield contingent, considering the nominal amount of the subscription, should materially increase this number. Those who desire to know what the Society desires to do in this particular case, and how it proposes to do it, may be answered in a very few sentences. That there is a right of way for pedestrians over Kinderscout from Hayfield to the Snake Inn is the firm belief of those who know the locality, and this road the Association is resolved to maintain, by conciliatory means if possible, but by appeals to the Law Courts if necessary. The Society will in no way support the reckless tripper who would trample down mowing grass to get a small bunch of Marguerite daisies, or who would wander all among the grouse coverts and disturb young birds. This class of excursionist is the enemy of the pedestrian and the lover of nature, and the prevention of such damage will be as much the object of the Association as the preservation of the right to the enjoyment of ancient footpaths and bridlepaths.