

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND
NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

REPORT

OF THE COUNCIL

*For the Year
ended 31st December
1930*

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Constitution and Rules.

1. The Society shall be called "The Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society."
2. The objects of the Society shall be :—
 - (a) The preservation, maintenance and defence of the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of the public highways, footpaths, bridlepaths, bye-ways, 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 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.
3. An annual subscription of 2s. 6d. or upwards, payable in advance on the first day of January in each year, shall constitute membership.
4. The business of the Society not transacted in general meeting shall be in the hands of a managing committee, elected annually, and consisting of the President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Solicitor, Honorary Secretary, and not less than Twelve other Members of the Society, with power to add to their number.
5. An annual general meeting of the members of the Society shall be held in the first quarter in every year, and shall receive, consider, and, if approved of, adopt the report of the Managing Committee for the past year, and transact any other business that may arise.
6. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be held without delay whenever occasion shall arise, upon the requisition of five members specifying the reason for the meeting and communicated to the Honorary Secretary. Such meeting shall also be held before the institution or defence of any legal

proceedings, the costs of which the ordinary revenue of the Society shall be insufficient to defray, and a favourable vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present at such meeting shall, subject to the necessary funds being duly subscribed or guaranteed, be sufficient sanction for the institution or defence of such proceedings, provided that no liability in respect thereof shall attach to any member beyond the amount of such member's individual subscription to the Society, or the amount of such member's guarantee towards the funds necessary to conduct such proceedings.

7. The Managing Committee shall by themselves or by Sub-Committees appointed from their number:—

- (1) Induce—or, if necessary, compel—as far as possible, all Local, Public, or Urban Authorities and District Councils to perform their duties as conservators of the said public rights.
- (2) Institute, or defend, assist others in instituting or defending, continue, compromise, abandon, or prosecute to judgment, at their discretion, and generally give instructions for all the legal proceedings sanctioned by general meeting as aforesaid.
- (3) Keep a map, or series of maps, wherein the situation of all footpaths and other public ways shall, so far as possible, be indicated and recorded, and visit, inspect, survey, and report on the same from time to time, and receive, consider, and investigate complaints of violation of any of the said rights, or of the abuse thereof.

8. All Sub-Committees shall, from time to time, report to the Managing Committee.

9. The Society shall subscribe and be affiliated to such national Society or Societies constituted for like objects, as may from time to time be determined in general meeting.

10. All General Meetings, whether Annual or Extraordinary, shall be convened by the Hon. Secretary's written notice, posted or delivered to members at their usual or last known addresses, at least three days before the day of meeting, and indicating the business for which the meeting is to be convened. Ten members shall form a quorum.

11. These rules may be rescinded, supplemented, or altered by resolution passed in General Meeting, but not otherwise, and then only after a week's notice in writing of the proposed alteration.

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1930

THE year 1930 has been one of increasing activity and responsibility, necessarily involving larger expenditure and increased liabilities. It can safely be said that at no period of its existence has the Society had to deal with so many matters of importance. The continuation and further extension of the Society's work necessarily depends upon the amount of support which it may receive. The Society is, and has at all times been, ready to go to the full extent of its means in defence of public rights of way.

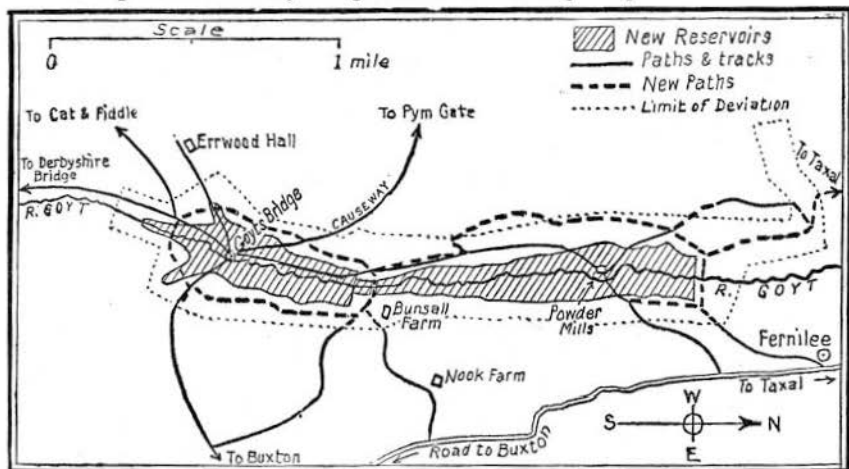
Delamere Forest Footpaths.

After waiting many months in expectation of a conference, in conjunction with the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society with the Commissioners to discuss footpaths over forestry lands, the council deemed it advisable to ask the Divisional Officer to deal with the matter of the footpaths through the forest forthwith. As a result, a communication was received from the Assistant Forestry Commissioner agreeing that the bridle roads and footpaths laid down in the Enclosure Awards affecting the area were public rights of way, but not admitting the right of the public to use any of the other paths. In reply, your council, after reference to the many aspects of the case, pointed out that a plan was prepared and forwarded by the Society in July, 1928, showing all the paths claimed as public rights of way, and pressed that the matter should be given further consideration with a view to a scheme being agreed upon by which many of the paths claimed would be admitted to be public, and the claims by the public to use the other paths would be dropped. These proposals are at present under consideration by the Assistant Commissioner.

Proposed Reservoirs in the Goyt Valley.

As mentioned in our report of last year, by the powers sought in the Stockport Corporation's Water Bill, as deposited in Parliament, many miles of paths in the Goyt Valley were threatened.

A joint sub-committee of the Society and the Ramblers' Federation was arranged, to which was delegated the task of drawing up a scheme for substitution and deviation of footpaths which would be submerged, or otherwise interfered with, by the construction of the proposed reservoirs. This scheme formed the basis of negotiations with the Corporation, and your council have great pleasure in placing on record the Corporation's ready recognition of the Society's representations.



It will be seen from the map (*reproduced by kind permission of "Manchester Guardian"*) that the rights of the public have been thoroughly safeguarded. Briefly, the result is that the existing way up the valley from the Powder Mills will be submerged, and a path further west, and higher up the hill, will be followed as far as the site of Bunsall Farm. At Bunsall, the head of the lower (Fernilee) reservoir will be bridged, and a footpath will run up either side of the upper (Errwood) reservoir. These paths will meet at the head of the upper reservoir, not far above the present crossing at Goyt's Bridge. The path along the east side of the valley from Bunsall to the head of the reservoir is entirely new, and does not take the place of any existing path.

All routes outside the "limit of deviation" shown on the map are not affected by the Act. The section in the Act providing for the closing of the old paths, and the substitution of new paths, reads as follows:—

"Subject as hereinafter provided the Corporation may within the area edged green on the signed plan hereinafter in this section referred to stop up and discontinue for public use all

roads, carriage-ways, cart tracks, bridle paths, footpaths, or routes over which public rights of passage may at the date of the passing of this Act exist which area edged green is situate within the limit of land to be acquired and upon the stopping up and discontinuance of such roads, carriage-ways, cart tracks, bridle paths, footpaths or routes over which public rights of passage may at the date of the passing of this Act exist the sites and soil thereof shall by this Act be vested in the Corporation;

Provided that before stopping up and discontinuing any such roads, carriage-ways, cart tracks, bridle paths, footpaths or routes the Corporation shall construct such public roads (Works Nos. 4, 16, 17, 18 and 19) and dedicate the site of such footpaths for public use as shown by red lines within the area edged green upon the said signed plan whether the said red lines follow the route of any existing road or footpath respectively or are situate upon new sites and the Corporation shall permit the Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society to provide and erect notice boards upon appropriate sites for the guidance of the public which boards shall be subject to the reasonable approval of the Corporation.

The signed plan hereinbefore in this section referred to is the plan signed in duplicate by Joseph Gibbons Esquire the Chairman of the Committee of the House of Commons to whom the Bill for this Act was referred one copy of which plan has been deposited in the Committee and Private Bill Office of the House of Commons and the other copy in the Parliament Office in the House of Lords."

To have achieved such an excellent result at a comparatively small cost, and after negotiations extending over a period of barely six months, was very heartening both to your council and the Ramblers' Federation.

Footpath from Edale to Win Hill, via Twitchill.

When in the midst of the last-mentioned negotiations the Council was asked to support an appeal against the application made by the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council, at the request of Messrs. G. & T. Earle, Ltd., to divert this footpath by closing the portion of the path over the level crossing. From the investigations made, it was clear that the public already enjoyed a right of way over the entire length of the proposed new highway, and also that the proposed new way was more dangerous than the existing path over the railway. After receiving offers of financial assistance from residents at Hope, and also from several of the affiliated Clubs, your Council agreed to support the appeal, and the necessary instructions were given to the Society's solicitors by Mr. J. Barber, the appellant, who, as a member of the Hope Parish Council, had, together with other parishioners, actively opposed the proposed diversion. The

appeal, which was heard at Derby Quarter Sessions on April 9 last, was quite successful, the jury finding :—

- (1) That the proposed new highway would not be more commodious ;
- (2) That the old highway (intended to be stopped up) was not unnecessary ; and
- (3) That the appellant would be injured or aggrieved by the proposed diversion.

In view of this verdict, the public were incensed to learn that, included in an omnibus bill, presented to Parliament by the London, Midland & Scottish Railway Company in December last, was a clause providing that the Company might, subject to the provisions of the Act, stop up and discontinue as a public footpath so much of the footpath as lies between the Company's fences where it crosses the Dore and Chinley Railway. As on the hearing of the appeal the whole of the facts connected with the case, including the evidence as to whether the path was dangerous or not—a representative of the railway company being one of the witnesses for the respondents—were fully considered by the jury, the inclusion of the clause in the Bill appeared to your Council to be nothing less than a deliberate attempt to over-ride the order of Quarter Sessions, a precedent which it was thought Parliament should not sanction, and, after the fullest consideration, the Council resolved to do all in its power to obtain the deletion of the clause, including, if necessary, the presentation of a petition against the Bill. It may be stated that, on the hearing of the appeal, the chairman of Quarter Sessions pointed out that it was always open to the Company, in conjunction with Messrs. Earle, to erect a footbridge over the railway.

Communications were made to the various Highway Authorities concerned, and other interested parties, and also to the railway company. The Parliamentary Office of the Company replied that it was thought that the circumstances in connection with the closing of the path were not fully appreciated, and they had instructed their Estate Department to interview the Society's Secretary, when their proposals, and the reasons for seeking the power to close the footpath, would be explained, which explanation they trusted would satisfy the Society that their interests would not be injuriously affected. An interview was accordingly arranged for December

20, at which interview the chairman of the Ramblers' Federation was present. It came, therefore, as a great surprise, in view of the Company's letter, to find that the Company now proposed only seeking a diversion instead of a stoppage of the path—the proposed new highway being the same path as was offered in connection with Messrs. Earle's application! No explanation could be offered as to why the Bill was silent with regard to the proposed diversion. It was difficult to appreciate how the company could assume that the proposals would be acceptable to the Society and the public, as there was not the slightest difference between the company's application and proposals and those of Messrs. Earle, and the company's representative had to admit that no new reason or necessity could be shown for closing the path (or diverting the same) than those put forward on the hearing of the appeal in April last when the verdict of the jury was that the path *was necessary*. Having regard to the unsatisfactory nature of the proposals, further representations were made to the company, and Parliamentary Agents were communicated with as to the presenting of a petition. However, your Council is pleased to report that the latter course was not necessary, as in reply the company stated that they had now decided to delete from the Bill the clause seeking the power to close the path—a very satisfactory conclusion to the matter.

The Council would take this opportunity of thanking the Commons, Open Spaces & Footpaths Preservation Society, and also the Ramblers' Federation for their willing and helpful co-operation in obtaining the deletion of the clause.

Footpath from Hope Valley to Lose Hill.

Following complaints made to the Council, Messrs. Earle were written to suggesting the erection of a footbridge over the deep cutting across the path, caused by the construction of the Company's railway line, and also as to the making safer and easier for pedestrians of the point on the riverside footpath from Castleton to Hope where the path is crossed by the same railway line. Your Council is pleased to state that an interview has been arranged between the Company, a deputation from the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council, and the Society's Representatives, to discuss the matter, and to view the paths.

Benfield Footpath.

The Council regrets to state that Mr. Bennett and the adjoining landowner failed to come to an agreement as to the line of path to be used, and, consequently, up to the present it has not been possible to erect the footbridge, which the Society was prepared to do out of its own funds. It seems a pity that the matter could not be amicably settled for all time, as your Council was anxious and willing to do. The path is, of course, unobstructed.

Footpath Near Butts Mill, Leigh.

Following complaints as to the obstruction of this path, enquiries were made to the Leigh Corporation when it was ascertained that an agreement had been entered into with the landowners providing for the use of the path by the public, and that agreement was entirely without prejudice to the public or private rights of the respective parties.

Footpaths at Shireoaks.

The landowner was interviewed with reference to "No road" notices erected on the path from Breckhead to Shireoaks, and also on the Hayfield-Roych Clough bridle road down to Shireoaks, and your Council is pleased to state that the notices have now been removed.

Footpath on Tegg's Nose, Near Macclesfield.

The attention of the Council was called to the fact that the quarrying operations on the top of Tegg's Nose had resulted in the obstruction of the path. As a result of correspondence with the quarry owners and the owners of the land, a joint conference was arranged at the locus, and the whole matter fully discussed, when, as the obstructions had been removed and the quarry owners willing to put the path about the Spinney in better condition, it was agreed that nothing further need be done so long as the path remained unobstructed. Suggestions were made as to the erection of signposts, which it is understood, the owners will accept. It may be stated that the quarry owners made a complaint as to wilful damage being done to their property by persons using the path. This malicious behaviour is strongly

depreciated by the Council, and adds seriously to the difficulties of their work of the preservation of footpaths, and in the conduct of negotiations.

Footpath by Sitch Farm, Charlesworth.

Following complaints received as to the removal of a stile on this path, the farmer was interviewed, and he admitted that he had removed the slab of the stile from its position. After some discussion he agreed to place the stile in order, and it is pleasant to record that he started to remake the stile before your Council's representatives had left. Would that all owners were so amenable to reason !

Stepping Stones across Derwent between Bamford and Hathersage Stations.

On the attention of the Derbyshire County Council being called to the fact that two of the stones were insecure, having been disturbed by floods, steps were immediately taken to have the stones made secure.

Footpath from Chapel-en-le-Frith to Combs.

In consequence of a complaint by a member of the Society that his right to use this path had been challenged when crossing the links of the Chapel-en-le-Frith Golf Club, a communication was forwarded to the Golf Club. Your Council is pleased to record that on the following day the Secretary to the Golf Club telephoned your Secretary, and stated that there was no intention to dispute the right of the public to the path, and that he would have the Society's letter displayed in the Club House, so that pedestrians would not be interfered with in the future.

Footbridge over River Bollin at Ashley Mill.

During the latter part of 1929 this footbridge was in a dilapidated condition, and in spite of local protests no attempt was made to repair it, the result being that during the floods of early 1930 the whole bridge was carried away, and, consequently, the public footpath from the Bleeding Wolf Hotel to the Polo Grounds became unusable. From

enquiries made to the Bucklow Rural District Council, it was understood that they were considering the question of the reconstruction or replacement of the bridge with the landowner's agent. Although many months have since elapsed the bridge has not been re-erected, and your Council is pressing the Cheshire County Council, who have now become the Highway Authority, by reason of the change under the Local Government Act, for a decision to be come to without further delay.

Footpath from Softley Bottom to the Manchester Road, Hazlehead.

A complaint as to the very bad condition of portion of this bridle path was passed on to the Thurlstone Urban District Council, who replied that the matter was receiving their consideration.

Footpaths at Courses Farm, Chapel-en-le-Frith.

Complaints having been received that "No road" notices have been erected affecting these paths, investigations are being made as to whether there be any infraction of public rights involved, preparatory to coming to a decision upon the action to be taken.

Footpath from Grindsbrook Booth to Upper Booth.

The owner of the land upon which the path commences erected a notice worded "No footpath. Keep to the Lane," his contention being that the true line of the path was along the sunken peat lane, and that the stiled pathway above, and north of the sunken way, was merely a private occupation way. From the evidence obtained, there did not appear to be the slightest doubt about the parallel footpath being a public right of way, and the owner was asked to remove the notice, and as the result of several interviews with him the notice has been taken down.

Footpath from Knutsford to Arley.

It was thought that the re-erection of the footbridge on this footpath would put an end to the obstruction of the

path. It was reported to the Council, however, that the tenant of Hollow-wood Farm had not only ploughed up the footpath, but had also obstructed the gateway. Consequently, the tenant was written to, and an assurance asked for that the obstructions would be taken down, and no further attempt made to plough up the path. A satisfactory reply was received, from which it would appear that there was no intention of obstructing the path. The Council would ask members of the public, using this path, to see that the gates are closed after them so that cattle may not stray.

Footbridge across the River Bollin, Near Prestbury.

The small footbridge across the River Bollin $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles N. of Prestbury, having become so dilapidated as to be unusable, thus practically closing the path between Lee Hall and Top o' the Hill Farm, your Council reported the matter to the Alderley Edge, Wilmslow and District Footpaths Preservation Society, and ascertained from them that there appeared to be some doubt as to which Highway Authority was liable for the repair of the bridge under the recent Local Government Act, but that the question was being further considered. As the cost of the bridge cannot be very great, surely the best course would be for one or other of the Highway Authorities to do the necessary work, and settle the question of the apportionment of cost later. By their present attitude they continue to deprive the public of the use of the path.

Footpath from Reedysnape Farm to near the Whitecross Inn, Ribchester.

On being approached by the Parish Council as to this path, the public right to which was being contested by the land-owner, your Council gave advice on points raised. The public would be pleased to read in the press that the local inhabitants, supported by the Parish Council, had had a demonstration walk over the path.

Footpath from Lees New Road to Boardman's Edge.

Complaints having recently been received of this footpath having been obstructed by barbed wire where the path passes

between two of the Greens of the Oldham Golf Club, and, further, that the path was being obliterated by the throwing of wall and debris into the sunken track, the Golf Club were written to, and have replied asking for further information as to the path in question, as so far as they are aware no obstruction has taken place. Such further information has now been forwarded.

Footpath from opposite Birtles and Over Alderley Church through Highlees Wood.

Your Council communicated with the agent to Lord Stanley as to pedestrians being stopped from using this path. After disputing that the public had a right of way over the path, the agent intimated that His Lordship would have no objection to the use of the path, on sufferance, by pedestrians, at such times as may be convenient to the estate and their tenants. After making the fullest investigations, your Council had to come to the conclusion that it would be difficult, without further evidence, to maintain a claim to a public right of way. As a result of your Council's negotiations the public will be allowed to use the path very frequently during each year. Endeavours were made to fix, approximately, the periods when the path might be used, an arrangement that would have been more convenient to all parties concerned, but it was not possible to do this.

Footbridge near Clayton Bridge Station.

The Lancashire County Council, having now become the Highway Authority, has been approached with a view to the footbridge being re-erected. The County Surveyor has now requested an interview at the locus, and it is hoped to arrange an interview during the course of a week or two.

Footpaths at Moorside Farm, Chisworth.

The farmer was written to requesting that the notice which reads "Private—No road," erected in the lane just south of the farm buildings, be removed, as it is misleading. No reply being forthcoming to the Council's communications, the matter has been reported to the District Council.

Footbridge over Dean Brook, Smithills, Bolton.

Owing to the footbridge over Dean Brook having fallen into the brook, much inconvenience was caused to the members of the public wishing to use the path from Walker Fold to Sheepcote Green Farm. The Council asked the Corporation to re-erect the footbridge in order to make the path useable again, and forwarded the consent of the land-owner to the erection of the footbridge. The Corporation, however, are not prepared either to re-erect the footbridge, or to undertake its future maintainance if re-erected by any other party.

Conference of Footpaths Preservation Societies.

In October last, a conference of Footpaths Preservation Societies and kindred organisations was held in London, under the auspices of the Commons, Open Spaces & Footpaths Preservation Society. For a one-day conference a vast amount of valuable work was accomplished, and there is no doubt but that the Conference was a complete success—so much so, that surprise was expressed that so many years should have passed without a gathering of this kind. It is now intended to make the conference an annual one, if at all possible.

The resolution proposed by the Society's delegate, and which was passed unanimously, was as follows:—

“ That this Conference, having regard to the many footpaths that are becoming unuseable owing to the falling into disrepair of footbridges, forward a communication to Highway Authorities urging them to see to the repair and re-erection of footbridges whenever the necessity arises and thus help to preserve public footpaths.”

It is proposed to forward a copy of such resolution to the Minister of Health, with a request that the subject might be borne in mind in the event of any legislation being introduced amending the Highway Acts, and the attention of all County Councils is being drawn to the importance of proper means of crossing streams, etc., being provided and maintained on public paths. As may be seen from the Society's Reports, this

matter of the repair and maintenance of footbridges becomes more acute as time passes and the old structures decay. The attention of Highway Authorities has repeatedly been called to its urgency, and it is hoped that they will, in the future, be more active in compelling their repair, so that the public shall not be inconvenienced or prevented, by breaches in their continuity, from using footpaths at all seasons.

Public Rights of Way Bill.

The prospects for this Bill becoming law seem to be more favourable than in previous Sessions of Parliament. Mr. E. D. Simon, M.P., a vice-president of the Society, had moved the Second Reading of this Bill, which has for its object the simplification of the proof of Public Rights of Way, and has already on five occasions received a Second Reading in the House of Commons. All the Members of Parliament for the Society's area were asked by your Council to support the measure, and satisfactory replies were received. As is now well known, the Bill was, this time, given its Second Reading without the necessity of a division.

Direction Posts.

Owing, in part, to the number of visits that had to be made to Benfield and Hope by the Inspector of Footpaths in connection with, and also subsequent to, the hearing of these two cases, it has not been possible to carry out the full programme of new direction posts indicated in last year's Report, though the preliminary arrangements have been made.

During the year two direction posts and plates have been repainted on the footpath from the Flouch Inn to the Derwent Valley, and in the case of the post at Little Brookhouse a slight alteration in the position of the cross plate has rendered the post more useful.

A cast iron plate has been prepared and handed to the Stockport Corporation, who have erected the same at a

point on the Hayfield-Snake footpath above Kinder Reservoir. The plate requests the public to refrain from polluting the water.

The following work is in hand :—

A new direction post, by the gift of the Stockport Rambling Clubs, to indicate the commencement of the Stakeside footpath above Goyts Bridge.

Two iron plated direction posts on the path across Wild Moor from Goyts Bridge to Edgemoor.

An iron plated post at Alport Bridge to indicate the commencement of the Oyster Clough Roman Road.

An iron plated direction post at Hollow-wood Farm, Arley.
Three finger posts at Glossop to indicate the approach of Doctor's Gate.

A finger post on the path Yewtree House to Flittogate Farm near Knutsford.

A finger post at the Combs end of path over Chapel-en-le-Frith Golf Links.

New posts to be fixed to the iron plate below Tunstead Farm, Hayfield, and to the "Dogs in Leash" plate near Kinder Reservoir.

Arrangements have been made for the removal of the direction post at Hartington, to a more useful position, to avoid confusion between two footpaths since the building of a garage at the point of commencement of the paths.

Four iron plated direction posts within the area of the Bakewell Rural District Council are to be repainted.

The Art Museum Field Club have kindly offered to defray the cost of the erection of an iron plated direction post in a position yet to be chosen.

Use of Neglected Footpaths.

For some considerable time it has been evident to the Council that many footpaths, particularly in and around Cheshire, were liable to be obstructed and stopped up by reason of non user. To counteract this a vigilance or patrolling party has been formed, consisting of members of the Council, who will see to the patrolling of any paths within the Society's area that may be in danger of being obstructed or closed by reason of non user.

Among the neglected paths is the Knutsford-Arley route, via Hollow-wood and Littley Farms, referred to in this Report. Other paths requiring more frequent use are :—

From Ashley via Ryecroft and Yarwoodheath Farms to Watling Street, then by Spode Green, near by, to Boothbank, and over Agden Bank towards Broad Oak Farm, linking up with paths through High Legh Park to Arley.

From Castle Mill and Bollin-house to Mobberley.

From Ashley to Four-lane-ends via Arden House, Birtles, Kellhouse and Parkside Farms, and on to Knutsford via Broad Oak and Parkgate.

From Ashley to Lindow Moss via Lowerhouse, Blackshaw Heys, and Breach House, then eastwards to Wood Lane, Woodend Lane, Burleyhurst Lane, then from Burleyhurst Farm on to the Moss.

From Mobberley, Damhead, southwards, across Pedley Brook, ending at Marthall Brook Bridge, then continuing by Ollerton Hall and Lane to track passing Colshaw Hall to Parkgate and Higher Peover.

From Knutsford via Manor Park and St. John's Old Churchyard to Anson House, then south-east to Marthall Brook Bridge.

From Knutsford to Plumbley via Blackhill, alongside railway to Parkside Farm, and on to Sudlow Lane, continuing alongside railway, and ending at Malkin House, Plumbley, or from Sudlow Lane, by path westwards, alongside end of Tabley Park to White House and Watling Street, linking up with paths via Smokerhill Farm and Providence Cottage to Tanyard Farm, Wathill Farm, Bate Heath and Arley.

From south of Mere Hall, on the Chester Road, via Bentleyhurst and Winterbottom Farms, Mereheys and Northwood Hall to Arley.

From High Legh, Swineyard Lane, southwards to Mosshall Farm, Arley View Farm and Northwood House.

From Lower Peover to Higher Peover Church, then south through Big Wood to Fullers Gate, continuing south by Barnshaw Hall and Millbank Farm to Goostrey.

From Swan Green, eastwards to Millbank Farm, then south east to Boots Green and Fuller's Gate.

From Chelford, near Manor Farm, southwards to Bate Mill Farm, and from below same eastwards to Home Farm, across Withington Park to road from Redesmere and Siddington.

From Chelford Church, eastwards to Astle, then south to near Lapwing Hall.

From Cuddington, along Kennel Lane, through Abbots Moss Wood, to Shaw's Lane and the Middlewich Road, then from opposite Shrewsbury Hotel southwards to White Hall and Little Budworth Village or Common.

From Whitegate Smithy, Cuddington, to Foxwist Green, then from Cassia Lodge over railway to Marton Hole, then southwest to Claylane Farm or Outside Farm, and from Outside to Little Budworth.

From Whitegate via Nova Scotia, over railway, then right to Shaw's Lane Farm.

From Manley Common, east of Delamere Forest, southwards, across Ashton Brook to railway bridge.

Further, there are many paths between Delamere and Kelsall to Beeston Castle, between Frodsham and Frodsham Bridge to Kingsley and Hatchmere, and from Mouldsworth and Ashton to the quaint old bridges over the Gowy near Hockenhull.

The public are urged to use the paths whenever possible, and secretaries of Rambling Clubs and similar organisations would be doing a very useful work if they would include, in their programmes of rambles, one or more of the above routes each year. It need hardly be pointed out that the best way to ensure that footpaths shall not be obstructed is to use them as frequently as possible.

Finances.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the Society's membership has increased, and that many individual subscribers and affiliated clubs have increased the amount of their subscriptions. On the other hand, owing to the large volume of work that has been accomplished, the expenses for the year have again been very heavy in proportion to the resources, and the balance in hand is slightly reduced. The necessity for a larger income is constantly impressing itself upon the Council. The call for the Society's services steadily increases. If the good work which the Society has been doing is to be continued and developed, to meet the circumstances of the times, it must have greatly enlarged resources. It need hardly be pointed out that the income of

the Society must determine the extent of its activities, and an urgent appeal is made for a larger membership. The burden of supporting the Society would still appear to be undertaken by a small percentage of ramblers and those interested in the preservation of footpaths. The secretaries of rambling clubs and kindred societies would be doing a very useful service if they would bring to the notice of their members on all convenient opportunities the objects and claims of the Society and urge individual membership.

The necessity for a Defence Fund will, no doubt, be now fully realised. Without it the Society could not have fought the Benfield footpath case, or supported the appeal against the application to close the Twitchill path, nor to have taken the steps it did with regard to the Stockport Corporation and L. M. & S. Railway Bills. The amount of contributions to the Defence Fund, during the past year, was very encouraging, but, once again, your Council would emphasise the necessity of increasing the Fund to at least £250, as speedily as possible. Need anything further be said than that if the Twitchill Path Appeal had been unsuccessful, the costs incurred (including the respondent's costs) would have more than wiped out the balance in hand of the Defence Fund.

Membership.

The terms of membership are quite simple ; there are no formalities other than the payment of a subscription of not less than 2/6 per annum, which entitles the member to a copy of the annual report, and to any information which it may be in the Council's power to give.

In fixing so small a minimum subscription the Society had in view the desirability of obtaining the largest possible amount of public interest, but, of course, the revenue from subscriptions at this low rate is quite inadequate to the requirements for the conduct of the Society's operations.

The Council, therefore, renews its appeal for subscriptions higher than the minimum, and for donations to the Defence Fund.

Affiliation.

The minimum fee for Rambling Clubs and other Societies desiring to become affiliated is 10s. 6d. per annum. The payment of the fee carries with it the right to nominate a delegate to attend the Council's meetings.

There are still many Rambling Clubs and similar associations, in the district, which are not yet affiliated, and a special invitation is extended to these to attach themselves to the Society, for, by so doing, they would help financially, and, through their delegates, take a part in its management.

Affiliated Rambling Clubs & Societies.

- Alderley Edge, Wilmslow and District Footpaths Preservation Society.
- Ancoats Brotherhood.
- Art Museum Field Club.
- Associate Rambling Club.
- Barnsley C.H.A. Rambling Club.
- Bolton C.H.A. Rambling Club.
- Bury and District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
- Camping Club of Gt. Britain & Ireland (Manchester Section).
- Co-operative Holiday Association.
- Chorlton Road Congregational Church Rambling Club.
- Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes (Manchester Section).
- Derby C.H.A. and H. F. Rambling Club.
- Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
- Edgeley Botanical Society.
- Essian Rambling Club.
- Field Naturalists' and Archaeologists' Society, Manchester.
- First Timperley Rovers.
- Friendship Holidays' Association Manchester Rambling Club.
- Glossop Field Naturalists' Society.
- Hans Renold Social Union Rambling Section.
- Hallamshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
- Heywood and District Botanical Society.
- Holiday Fellowship Limited.
- Holiday Fellowship (Oldham and District Group).
- Holiday Fellowship (Manchester Group No. 1).
- Holiday Fellowship (Rochdale Group).
- Holiday Fellowship (Stockport Group).
- Hyde and District Footpaths Preservation Society.
- L. M. & S. Rambling Club.
- Manchester Amateur Photographic Society.
- Manchester & District Library Fellowship, Rambling Section.

Affiliated Rambling Clubs and Societies—continued.

- Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section " A ")
 Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section " C ")
 Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section " D " West)
 Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section " E ")
 Manchester H.S.C. Languages Rambling Club.
 Manchester Pedestrian Club.
 Manchester Rambling Club.
 Manchester Social Club Ramblers.
 Oldham and District C.H.A. Rambling Society.
 Oldham and District Chamber of Trade (Juniors' Association)
 Rambling Club.
 Onward Rambling Club.
 Peveril Rambling Club.
 Peveril Rambling & Social Club.
 Plymouth Grove Wesley Guild.
 " R " Club.
 Ramblers' Federation (Manchester and District).
 Rucksack Club.
 Salford P.S.A. Rambling Club.
 Sheffield C.H.A. Rambling Club.
 Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club.
 Stockport C.H.A. Rambling and Social Club.
 Stockport Field Club.
 Stockport Seconians Association Rambling Club.
 Stockport Co-operative Sports Club.
 Trinity Wesleyan Rambling Club.
 United Field Naturalists.
 Vegetarian Society Social and Athletic Club.
 Whalley Range Presbyterian Rambling Club.
 Workers' Educational Association (Rambling Section)
 Stockport.
 Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club.
 Zion Rambling Club.

