

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND  
NORTHERN COUNTIES  
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION  
SOCIETY

**REPORT**  
OF THE COUNCIL

*For the Year  
ended 31st December  
1932*

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# The Peak District & Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society.

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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, 1932

THE year 1932 has again been one of increasing activity and responsibility, necessarily involving larger expenditure and increased liabilities, and there is every sign that the calls upon the Society will continue to multiply. There is no prospect of an "easy" time for the officers of the Society. Agricultural land is now fast becoming eligible building land, and urban development proceeds apace with all the consequent dangers to footpaths. In consequence of the now prevailing ideas and regulations in regard to the low density of buildings permissible in the development of our towns and suburbs every extension now means the absorption and destruction of the amenities of two or three times the area of countryside than was formerly required. Trees, headgerows and pleasant pathways disappear, and the area becomes one of small villadom and concrete roads. Even if it be possible at times to arrange for the maintenance of the lines of some of the old ways it is difficult indeed to render them attractive; the right of way may remain but its beauty is gone. Furthermore, the Rights of Way Act will entail a considerable amount of additional work if the full fruits of the Act are to be enjoyed by the public. As in the past, the Society is earnestly desirous of continuing its labours in the protection of public rights within its area of operation provided the public on its part will provide the necessary funds. Under the heading of Finance in this Report further reference to the state of the funds of the Society is made, and the Balance Sheet shows the deficiency in the income for the year.

It is with deep regret that your Council has to record the death during the year of Mr. William Hughes, a Vice-Chairman of the Council. Mr. Hughes had been connected with the Society since its earliest days and a member of the Council for many years.

Following are notes of some of the many matters which have occupied the attention of the Society and its Officers during the present year.

### Dalehead Footpaths.

The Council is pleased to record the successful termination of its negotiations with the Fylde Water Board referred to in last year's Report.

Following a meeting of your President and Secretary with the Officials of the Water Board at Dalehead, the Water Board, whilst not agreeing with the contention that the diversion of the footpath shown on the Parliamentary plans in the Act of Parliament of 1925 gave a right of way from the



Slaidburn-Bentham Road to Hollins and thence along the diversion road as far as the Chapel House Bridge, agreed to dedicate a footpath on the west side of the valley which would give the through route desired on modified lines. By reason of the closing by Quarter Sessions of the road from

Dalehead Vicarage to the Old House Meadow Laithe, that section of the road had become a cul-de-sac, but the Water Board, in a very generous manner, agreed to meet the difficulty regarding the northern outlet by connecting the line of way to Old House Meadow Laithe. The path, which has now been dedicated, is roughly 3 miles in length, and affords one of the finest views of the Reservoir and the surrounding country. As will be seen from the map embodied in this Report (reproduced by kind permission of the Ramblers' Federation) the path commences at Hollins Farm on the Slaidburn-Bentham Road and proceeds to Old House Meadow Laithe where it again joins the Slaidburn-Bentham Road.

#### **Footpath from Congleton Edge Road to Newbold Astbury via Puddle Bank Farm.**

As mentioned in the previous year's Report, the Council at the request of the Congleton Corporation obtained the names of further witnesses who would be prepared to give evidence that the path was public—making in all upwards of 40 witnesses, several of whom could testify to over 50 years' user. Furthermore, it was pointed out to the Corporation that the path was clearly shown on the Ordnance Map (1911 edition) and also on a sale plan of adjoining land. Notwithstanding such evidence the Corporation cannot see their way to take action in the matter owing to conflicting evidence. The Town Clerk also pointed out that with regard to the Ordnance Map the portion in dispute is not marked "F.P." as is the case with the other portions of the footpath. From the investigations made by the Council it is difficult to understand how the evidence can be conflicting. As to the path not being marked "F.P." on the Ordnance Map it is not the custom of the Ordnance Department to so mark paths which are fenced on both sides, that is where it becomes a laneway, and this path was so fenced at the date the survey was made. The continuation of the path west of Puddle Bank Farm, which is also similarly fenced, is not marked "F.P." although it is undoubtedly a public road. A further letter has been received from the Town Clerk that the Highway Committee had further considered the matter and were still of opinion that there was not sufficient conclusive evidence of the path being a public footpath to enable them to take the responsibility of removing the obstruction, but that if the Society was desirous of taking proceedings in the

matter the Corporation would assist so far as possible. In the meantime it had been ascertained that Puddle Bank Farm had changed ownership, and the new owner has been written to informing him the position regarding the path and asking whether he is prepared to admit the right of the public and have the obstruction removed, but no reply has yet been received. Your Council is now in communication with the Town Clerk as to the point raised by him in connection with the Ordnance Map, and also as to the further investigations made by the Council, and has suggested that the Corporation should receive a deputation to discuss the matter.

### **Wythenshawe Footpaths.**

On hearing that the Manchester Corporation intended to apply to Quarter Sessions for power to close certain footpaths on the Wythenshawe Estate, and that there were as many as 51 footpaths scheduled by them for ultimate closing, the Wythenshawe Committee of the Corporation were asked to receive a deputation from the Society, and a meeting was arranged. As a result the Council was satisfied that, in the circumstances, the Corporation would probably get the Order asked for in respect of the six footpaths the subject of the first application. The Committee, however, readily gave the assurance asked for by the Society that these footpaths would not be closed until building operations were commenced, and also agreed to furnish a plan showing the proposed development of the remaining land, and that it should be open to the Council to make representations to the Committee as and when it was intended to apply for powers to close the remaining paths or any of them. It was also ascertained that the Committee intended, so far as possible, to preserve the amenities of the neighbourhood, and thus trees and spinneys will be allowed to remain where practicable.

More recently, the Council was asked to send a small deputation to meet the Chairman of the Wythenshawe Committee so that the Committee's further proposals in connection with the closing of four other paths could be considered. The deputation, whilst regretting the elimination or deviations in the old ways, felt that they could scarcely be averted without upsetting the "layout" of this particular

region. But they suggested that the Committee should in the development of the remaining land provide footways, which were not part of "Parkways" or footpaths along proposed roads, and a promise was made that the suggestions would be put before the Committee's Town Planning Advisor for his consideration.

Subsequently the Council outlined to the Committee the proposed footways, which are as follows :—

**1.—West Wythenshawe Footway.** A Footway on the west side of Wythenshawe Park running in a southerly direction from Wythenshawe Road alongside the west side of Nan Nook Wood and entering the Altrincham and Stockport Road nearly opposite the Royal Oak Inn. This footway would form a safety way into Wythenshawe Park south west of Wythenshawe Park if a western gateway were made into the Park.

**2.—Poundswick Footway.** A Footway running in a southerly direction from proposed Poundswick public open space to Moss House on the City boundary. This would replace the present rural lanes between the two places referred to (namely Dark Lane and Bailey Lane) if these are to be sub-urbanized by the development. It would form a very convenient and attractive footway from Poundswick by Moss House, Moss House Farm, Fields Farm, Manor Farm, Oak Farm and Broadoak Cottages through Sunbank Wood to Castle Mill in the Bollin Valley.

**3.—The Old Mill Footway.** A Footway leaving the proposed Baguley Parkway where it crosses Greenbrow Lane south of Whitehouse Farm and running southwards along the present footpath which runs between the old Baguley Mill goit and the Mill Brook to the site of the former Baguley Mill dam. Continuing southwards along the existing footpath across Oldwood Lane and the Fairwell Brook to enter the rural lane from Davenport Green to Etrop Green, outside the City. It is also suggested that the proposed public open space alongside the Baguley Parkway (coloured and hatched green on the Corporation development plan) should be extended westwards for a short distance only so as to preserve the amenity of the secluded area from Mill house in Green Lane to the site of the former Baguley Mill dam.

**4.—The Northenden Peel Hall and Shadow Moss Footway.** A Footway leaving Longley Lane by the present footpath south of the bridge carrying that lane over the railway near Northenden Station and running in a southerly direction past Sharston Mount across the proposed and existing Altrincham and Stockport Roads to the junction of the Peel Hall Road with the road from Brownley Green to Crossacres Green. This footway would form the westerly boundary of the proposed public open space south-east of Sharston Mount and would form a safety way for children coming from Northenden. Continuing, the footway could form a parallel footpath alongside the Peel Hall Road on the east of the proposed Cemetery and proposed Golf Course joining

the existing footpath on the west side of the Peel Hall Moat. The footway could continue directly south still along the existing footpath to Shadow Moss on the road from Heyhead to Moss Nook. (Note.—This footway could be continued southwards across Moss Lane and Hollin Lane past Lode Hill Farm to reach Styal).

Your Council is now waiting to hear from the Committee whether they are agreeable to provide for these suggested footways in planning out the development of the Estate.

### **Footpaths at Over.**

Complaints were received that the very useful field paths leading from Marton Hole to Antside and Chester Lane farms, Over, had been badly blotted out, and that all fencings had been made up, and there was now no access over the stream. The Northwich R.D.C. was communicated with and readily agreed that the complaints were justified, and proposed to communicate with the two Parish Councils of Little Budworth and Marton suggesting that they should take the matter in hand under the powers given them by the Local Government Act, 1894 (Section 13 (2)).

### **Footpath from Chapel-en-le-Frith to Combs-Dove Holes Road via Bank Hall Farm.**

From time to time complaints have been received that a misleading "No Road" notice was apt to deter pedestrians from using the footpath. The commencement of the path on Long Lane is indicated by a wooden finger post, whilst the end of the path on the Combs-Dove Holes Road is indicated by an iron finger post of the Chapel-en-le-Frith R.D.C. The only point where an intervening notice is found is at the Lodge, south of the railway line, where a board worded "Private Road. Trespassers will be prosecuted," has been fixed to the wall for some years, but even this board is not seen if the direct footpath is adhered to, which strikes S.W. immediately the railway is crossed.

### **Footpath near Killhill Bridge, Hope.**

On its being reported that this path had been obstructed the matter was investigated when it was found that the wiring of the stile did not in any way obstruct the stile, and was clearly not intended to obstruct it. The path is a short parallel alternative to the by-road and suffers from not being used sufficiently by pedestrians. The principal inconvenience is the hedge growth at the commencement of the path. At the other end of the path a gap stile in the wall is made up with large stones but appears to have been in this condition for a very long time and connection with the road is effected by the adjoining gate.

### **Knutsford-Arley-Lymm Path.**

Your Council has for some time been pressing the Cheshire County Council to request the removal of the obstructions on this path and to erect a series of cheap wooden signposts along it at the places where the path is very difficult to follow, as the public would be thus helped to follow the line of path, and there would be less chance of their unnecessarily wandering over the crops of the farmers. It is now understood that the District Surveyor has inspected the footpath and reported upon the matter to his Committee, and a reply is being awaited as to what decision the Committee has come to.

### **Footpath from Birtles Church to Whirley Old Hall.**

It will be remembered that in 1931 an arrangement was come to with Lord Stanley whereby the public were to be allowed the frequent use of this path. Recently it was reported that the public were being stopped from using the path, and on Lord Stanley's agent being asked the reason for such closing he replied that His Lordship had been reluctantly compelled to withdraw the concession owing to the damage that had been done to his property. It is understood, however, that members of the public going to Birtles Church on Sundays will be allowed to use the path.

Your Council is constantly urging that the rights of land-owners should be respected by pedestrians, and that the

utmost care should be taken against causing damage. Unfortunately there is a section of the public which does not respect such rights—thus rendering more difficult the work of the Society, particularly in regard to its negotiations with landowners for rights of way.

### **Sufferece Path at Hayfield.**

The sufferece path commencing near to Farlands and moving in a north-easterly direction until connection is made with the Car Meadow-Kinder-Stonyford bridle road until recently crossed the Sett by a wide wooden bridge just before the bridle road was reached and then a short stretch of footpath connected to the bridle road. At the point of connection and also at the other end (near Farlands) of the sufferece path 2 of the Stockport Corporation "Sufferece Footpath" notices were erected. At the bridle road end of the footpath the notice board is still in position, but that at the Farlands end has been lifted. Flood waters were responsible for the destruction of the bridge by which the Sett was crossed, and the bridge has not been rebuilt. The bridle road bridge crossing the river a few yards higher up, which was also affected, has been rebuilt. A short length of new path has been laid down to continue the sufferece path as far as the bridle road, so that the way will lie entirely on the S. or S.E. of the river. The attention of the Corporation has been called to the sufferece post now standing in a misleading position, and the Borough Engineer is now giving the matter his attention.

### **Footpaths over Shuttlings Low.**

As the result of its investigations, the Council is now satisfied that there is a public footpath from the new Macclesfield Reservoir over the shoulder of Shuttlings Low and through Shuttlings Low Farm to the Crag Inn. There are stiles all the way with the exception of a wall above the farm, which is crossed by a farm gate with no stile. Further

investigations are now being made as to whether a public way exists on the other side of Shuttlings Low, dropping down right on to the yard of Crag Inn.

### **Footpaths at Side of Main Roads.**

Complaints were made to the Council that in road widening schemes and the construction of new roads, in some cases the footpaths were being tar macadamised in a similar manner to the roadway itself. The County Councils of Cheshire, Derbyshire and Lancashire were communicated with suggesting a type of footpath similar to that constructed by the Cheshire County Council about 1930 on the Alderley-Congleton main road about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles south of Monks Heath corner, commencing at Old Withington Lane and running parallel and on the opposite side of the road to Redes Mere. The original hedge, containing some fine trees, was left in position; on the inside of this, a strip of grass 12 feet wide, then a light fence consisting of oak strips strongly wired together and about 3 feet high, then the footpath proper 5 feet wide, and then another fence on the inside of which a thorn hedge had been planted. At intervals of about 50 yards a gangway 12 feet wide leads to the road. The surface of the path consisted of soil and very fine cinders well rolled in, affording a track which, without being too hard to the feet, did not become waterlogged after heavy rain. The double fences and the intervening space provide a very pleasant and safe type of footpath and add to the beauty of the road side.

### **Footbridge in Happy Valley, Bramhall**

The Council called the attention of the Hazel Grove and Bramhall U.D.C. to the fact that this footbridge had been washed away, and, shortly afterwards, the latter Council replied that the footbridge had now been re-erected by the owner.

### **Footpath from Hope to Lose Hill Crossing Earle's Cutting.**

During the year Messrs. Earle have carried out the alterations suggested by the Council. The crossing is effected by concrete steps on each side of the cutting in a direct line, whilst there is a double iron railing on each side of both sets of steps. The crossing at the bottom of the cutting is sleepers and two "Whistle" notices have been erected. There are two clear notices for employees worded "Footpath to be left clear of trucks. By Order G. & T. Earle Ltd." and, in addition, there are two "Level Crossing: Beware of Trains" notices.

### **Footpath from New Bridge, Slaidburn.**

Complaints having been made concerning this path enquiries were made, as a result of which the Council came to the conclusion that the path was not public, as a substituted path had been made by the Parish Council some years ago, when the path was closed by order of Quarter Sessions.

### **Footpaths at Entwistle.**

On receiving a complaint that the right of the public to use the footpaths at Broadmeadow and New House Farm, Entwistle, was disputed the Turton District Council was communicated with. That Council has asked to be furnished with evidence in support of the public's claim, and your Council is now engaged in obtaining this.

### **Derwent Valley Water Board's Plantations.**

A letter was received from the Water Board enclosing two plans of an area which the Board had decided to plant during the present winter planting season in the neighbourhood of Lockerbrook Farm, and the Council was asked to indicate on one of the plans any path which the Society would claim to be a public way on the area to be planted. Reference to the signed Parliamentary Plan, which your President had prepared on the Society's behalf years ago when the Water Board came into being, revealed that a

path across the area of land in question was claimed as a through public connection with the valley road from the neighbourhood of Fairholmes. Although the path is not indicated on the current 6 inch Ordnance Maps the distinctive colouring given on the Parliamentary plan claims the path as a public way, and pedestrians are again indebted to the Society for the work accomplished in its earlier years.

### **Rights of Way Act.**

On the 12th July, 1932, the Royal Assent was given to the Rights of Way Act—26 years after it was first introduced. The Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society is to be congratulated on the successful conclusion of its persistent efforts in spite of the many rebuffs it received—the Bill having been introduced on no less than 12 occasions.

The object of the Act, as described in the Memorandum on the Act issued by that Society, is to simplify the law relating to the proof or disproof of disputed highways of all kinds, and as originally drafted it merely proposed to apply the principles of the Prescription Act, 1832, to claims to such ways. During the Committee stage, however, new provisoes and sub-clauses were inserted, some useful but others less desirable. The most important part of the Act is contained in Clause 1, wherein it is provided that where any way upon or over any land belonging to an absolute owner has been actually enjoyed by the public as of right and without interruption for a full period of 20 years, the way shall be deemed to have been dedicated as public if it is of such a character that the presumption of dedication can properly arise, and if insufficient evidence exists to show that the owner had no intention to dedicate. Where any way has been enjoyed in such circumstances for the full period of 40 years, then it is provided that the presumption of dedication shall arise even if the property has been entailed. The presumption of dedication might, however, be rebutted by the placing and maintenance of a notice inconsistent with dedication, in which event, *in the absence of evidence of a contrary intention*, the notice should be sufficient to prevent the creation of a public right of way. Up to the present notices have been important links in the

chain of evidence ; but if a notice has been consistently ignored or defied by the public it seems doubtful how far it would have operated as a bar to dedication, more especially if the path were provided with stiles and unlocked gates. For the future, however, in the absence of proof of a contrary intention, a notice will be absolute evidence to prove that during the period of its display no public path has been gained through user alone. If an owner finds that notices erected by him are being taken down or defaced he is given power to protect himself by giving notice in writing to the County Council *and* also to the Council of the Borough or Urban or Rural District Council of the area in which the way is situated. Furthermore, the Act authorises any owner to deposit with the County *and* District or Borough Council concerned, after the 1st January, 1934, a 6 inch scale map and a statement indicating the public ways he admits. This may be followed at the expiration of six years by a written statement that in the interval the owner has, or has not, dedicated additional ways ; and the map and statements, *in the absence of evidence of proof of a contrary intention*, will be sufficient evidence to rebut any presumption of dedication of any ways not included in them during the respective periods covered by them. Unfortunately, there is no provision made for the publication of the deposit of the map and statement, and the public will be more or less in the hands of the Highway Authority. The public need not be unnecessarily alarmed at this, as most Authorities will not be prepared to accept any *ex-parte* claim without satisfying itself that, in fact, all public rights which can fairly be claimed have been included. In this connection the survey of footpaths at present being undertaken jointly by the Society and the Ramblers' Federation will be of inestimable value in the future. The Act does not come into operation until the 1st January, 1934, so it is important that in the meantime Highway Authorities should keep a watchful eye on all new notices which may be displayed alongside paths which have hitherto been used by the public. Members of the public on noticing a new noticeboard should immediately report the same to the Society in order that where necessary suitable enquiries may be made.

Clause 3 of the Act is likely to prove of real value to Footpaths Societies, as it provides that any Court or other tribunal dealing with a right of way claim shall take into consideration " any map, plan or history of the locality or other relevant document that is tendered in evidence, and

such weight shall be given thereto as the Court or tribunal consider justified by the circumstances." Hitherto, only certain maps such as Enclosure Award Maps and Tithe Maps have been admissible as evidence.

Until the Act is in operation it is difficult to say whether some of the Clauses will work in favour of or against the public, but it is the opinion of the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society (to which Society the public are indebted for the Act) that, in spite of all its provisoes and safeguards inserted in the interests of owners of property, the Act should materially assist in the work of protecting public rights of way, as it has been substituted for a system which often demanded the production of evidence which it was quite impossible to bring forward, intelligible and simple rules which all may understand.

### **Direction Posts.**

During the past year direction posts have been dealt with as follows :—

A new post and plate were erected at the Mossylee end of Doctor's Gate early in the year. In this case the plate had been made some 5 or 6 years ago in the hope that the late landowner's approval of its erection would be forthcoming. Eventually the sanction of the Derbyshire County Council, as highway authority, was secured.

A new post and plate have been erected at Alport Bridge, to indicate commencement of the Oyster Clough "Roman Road."

A new post and "Public Footpath" plate have been erected at the Combs end of footpath across the Chapel-en-le-Frith Golf Course.

The post which supported direction plate No. 33 on the old Hayfield-Chapel-en-le-Frith Road had rotted at the base and in falling the cast iron plate had been broken. A new post and plate have been erected.

The Society's three direction posts and plates at Tunstead Milton have been repainted, and in one case the post has been strengthened.

The direction post and plate in Hartington village have been repainted.

On the Hayfield-Snake Inn path posts and plates Nos. 16, 17 and 18 have been repainted together with 4 of the mile posts.

Direction posts and plates have been repainted in the following positions:—On the Win Hill Ridge; near Hope Cross; at Alport Bridge (facing the new plate and post) and at Derwent village.

The following work is in hand:—

Three finger posts at Glossop.

One finger post on the path Yewtree House to Flittogate Farm, Knutsford.

Two fingers posts and plates to indicate the field pathway from Hope Village to Lose Hill Ridge.

Two posts and plates on the path across Wild Moor from Goyt's Bridge to Edgemoor.

A post and plate near Heyridge Farm to indicate Oyster Clough Road.

Nine direction posts and plates to indicate footpaths across Derwent Edge.

The example set by the Stockport Rambling Clubs in their gift of two direction posts near Goyt's Bridge has been followed by others, namely:—

The Manchester Rambling Club (whose members conveyed the post and plate from Manchester and erected same in the chosen position at Abbey Grange, Derwent).

The Peveril Social & Rambling Club.

The Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club (two posts and plates).

"Out o' Doors" Fellowship.

Holiday Fellowship (Manchester Group).

Chorlton Road Congregational Y.P.F.

Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club.

C.E. Holiday Homes Comradeship (Manchester & Stockport).

Ramblers' Federation.

Manchester Pedestrian Club.

Mr. B. S. Harlow.

The direction post and plate offered by the Art Museum Field Club have not yet been erected, as the Manchester Corporation Highways Committee, though admitting the path to be public, refused the necessary sanction—the Committee preferring to erect the necessary signpost, and that has now been done.

During the past year the new bronze name plates of the Society giving the Secretary's name and address were fixed to the majority of the Society's direction posts.

In April a number of volunteers assisted the Society by carrying materials from Glossop to the Doctor's Gate foot-bridge. The bridge, which had been washed downstream by flood waters was carried back to its position, a handrail was fixed and one bank was repaired by concreting.

The Society had intended to erect a direction post to indicate the commencement of the Marsden Pack Horse Road, but in view of difficulties met in applying for the necessary permission, the proposal has now been abandoned.

### **Finances.**

The Council has again to draw attention to the fact that the Society's expenditure for the year exceeds its income, and had it not been for the donations made by various Rambling Clubs to cover the cost of signposts presented by them there is no doubt but that the whole of the balance in hand would have been used up. It must, therefore, be apparent that the income of the Society is insufficient, having regard to the large volume of work that is undertaken each year. The income of the Society must necessarily determine the extent of its activities, and unless it can depend upon a larger income the Society will be very much restricted in the work it undertakes. Whilst the calls for the assistance of the Society steadily increase the income does not increase in proportion to the expenditure necessarily involved in dealing with the additional work. It must be remembered that during the past few years many new signposts have been erected, and consequently the cost of maintenance will be an increasing one.

By his will the late Mr. Arnold Wilson (who for many years was a very active member of the Society) devised and bequeathed to the Society the income to arise from his farm and lands at Blackshaw, Hayfield, and Brynn Dinbren, Llangollen, for the general purposes of the Society. It is

understood that such properties have now been sold, and the fund to be handed over to the Society will be between £550 and £600 so that the income therefrom will be a very welcome addition to the usual annual income. It is gratifying to the Council to find that by the legacy Mr. Wilson greatly appreciated the work of the Society.

The Defence Fund has, during the year, increased from £166 5s. 10d. to £182, 15s. 4d. Steady progress has, therefore, been made towards the minimum fund of £250 aimed at.

### **Membership.**

The terms of membership are quite simple ; there are no formalities other than the payment of a subscription of not less than 2s. 6d. 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 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. It is again gratifying to report that several of the larger clubs are now doing this.

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

### **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.

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- Alderley Edge, Wilmslow and District Footpaths Preservation Society.
- Ancoats Brotherhood.
- Art Museum Field Club.
- Ashton-under-Lyne and District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
- Associate Rambling Club.
- Barnsley C.H.A. Rambling Club.
- Blackpool & District 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 Y.P.E. Rambling Club.
- C.E. Holiday Homes, Ltd.
- 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.
- Field Naturalists' and Archaeologists' Society, Manchester.
- First Timperley Rovers.
- Friendship Holidays' Association Manchester Rambling Club.
- 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).
- Holiday Fellowship (Rochdale Group).
- Holiday Fellowship (Stockport Group).
- Hyde and District Footpaths Preservation Society.
- L. M. & S. Rambling Club.
- Manchester Amateur Photographic Society.

**Affiliated Rambling Clubs and Societies**—continued.

- Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section " A ")  
 Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section " B ").  
 Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section " C ").  
 Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section " D ").  
 Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section " E ").  
 Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club.  
 Manchester H.S.C. Languages Rambling Club.  
 Manchester Municipal Officers' Guild Rambling Club.  
 Manchester Pedestrian Club.  
 Manchester Rambling Club.  
 Manchester Social Rambling Club.  
 Oldham and District C.H.A. Rambling Club.  
 Oldham and District Chamber of Trade (Juniors' Association)  
     Rambling Club.  
 Oldham Paragon Rambling Club.  
 Onward Rambling Club.  
 Peveril Rambling Club.  
 Peveril Rambling & Social Club.  
 Plymouth Gove Wesley Guild.  
 " R " Club.  
 Ramblers' Federation (Manchester and District).  
 Rucksack Club.  
 Saddleworth 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.  
 " The Bogtrotters."  
 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.

