

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND
NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

REPORT

OF THE COUNCIL

*For the Year
ended 31st December
1935*

**There having been no changes to
The Constitution and Rules of the
Society since 1934, the pages
showing The Constitution and Rules
in this Report have not been copied
for the Web Site**

Printers
THE POLICY-HOLDER JOURNAL COMPANY LIMITED
18, Booth Street, Manchester, 2

The Peak District & Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society.

President :

ARTHUR R. MOON, LL.B.

Vice-Presidents :

E. VIPONT BROWN, M.D.

P. M. OLIVER, B.A.

SIR HAROLD ELVERSTON

W. MAXWELL REEKIE,

F. HOWARD

O.B.E., J.P.

R. McDOUGALL, B.Sc., J.P.

SIR E. D. SIMON.

F. WILLET

Council :

P. M. OLIVER, B.A., *Chairman.*

J. W. PRICE, F.R.G.S., *Vice-Chairman.*

F. ALLEN

T. GREAVES

M. LIGHTBOWN

F. E. AMOR

L. GRIFFIN

W. LIVERSEDGE

F. ASHWORTH

H. GILLIATT

J. MACAULEY

T. H. BARKER

J. HALLARD

H. MEADOWCROFT

T. BARLOW

A. W. HEWITT

A. MILNER

A. E. BOWEN

B. S. HARLOW

W. A. RALSTON

W. BOYLE

J. N. HINDLE

A. E. RICHARDS

F. BROOME

D. HEWLETT

S. S. RIMINGTON

J. E. BROOM

A. HODKINSON

A. ROBINSON

W. J. BROWN

J. D. HODKINSON

H. ROBINSON

E. P. CAMPBELL

W. HOWARTH

W. M. ROBOTHAM

J. J. CASH

W. B. HOWIE

E. ROYCE

E. CHETWOOD

E. HUNTER

E. Y. SEANOR

J. CLARKE

H. INGE

G. SHARPLES

H. CLARK

W. INGHAM

J. R. SLANEY

F. COLLIER

H. JACKSON

A. SMITH

J. COOKE

Miss C. KELLY, B.A.

W. A. SPRUCE

W. H. COOMBER

C. C. KENNERDELL

J. STOTT

Miss E. DALE

H. C. KIRK

A. S. VERNON

C. C. FARMER

C. W. S. KIRKE.

J. F. WADE

J. FIELD

R. B. KNOTT

H. A. WINSTANLEY

W. KNOTT

Council—continued.

Hon. Surveyor :

W. H. COOMBER, Assoc.M.Inst.C.E.

Hon. Auditor :

T. GREAVES

Inspector of Footpaths :

H. E. WILD

Asst. Inspectors of Footpaths :

B. GILL.

G. H. B. WARD, F.R.G.S.

Hon. Treasurer:

ALFRED E. BOWEN, 63-64, Atlantic Chambers, 7, Brazennose Street,
Manchester, 2.

Hon. Secretary :

ARTHUR J. MOON, M.A.

55, Brown Street, Manchester, 2.

DEAnsgate 4276.

Secretary :

THOMAS BOULGER

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1935.

THE number of cases in which the aid of the Society is sought continues to increase. During the past year it has dealt with some of more than ordinary importance and public interest. The work of the Society embraces a large variety of cases, some of which may not appear to be of more than limited or purely local interest and yet may involve legal points of considerable importance together with difficult and sometimes prolonged investigations.

In order to cope with the amount of necessary investigation work, in view of the many complaints of obstruction and interference with public rights, it has been found necessary to have the assistance of an additional Inspector of Footpaths. Mr. Gill, who has been a member of the Council for many years, and whose knowledge of the footpaths in the Society's area—particularly in Cheshire (having been in charge of the survey of the Cheshire footpaths which has recently been made by the Manchester and District Ramblers Federation in conjunction with this Society)—has consented to act as Assistant Inspector. The extra expense necessarily involved by his appointment will be an additional strain on the Society's financial resources, but the Council has felt that it is necessary that such a step should be taken, and hopes that this effort on the part of the Council to treat the many calls made upon the Society may result in an increased membership and income. In view of the expense involved in carrying out investigations it will materially help the Council if members willing to carry out preliminary investigations in their neighbourhood will very kindly inform the Secretary. It also occurs to the Council that members may be aware of evidence that would be of assistance in dealing with some of the matters presently under consideration. If so, the Council would urge members to put the Society in possession of such evidence.

It is with deep regret the Council has to record the death during the year of Mr. L. Caradoc Evans, who has been connected with the Society since its inception in 1894, first as Honorary Secretary and afterwards as Honorary Solicitor. Mr. Evans did a vast amount of invaluable work in the early days of the Society, particularly in the fight for the Hayfield—Snake Inn path.

Following are notes on some of the many matters that have occupied the attention of the Society and its officers and Council during the past year :—

FOOTPATHS IN GREAT ROCKS DALE.

As mentioned in the Report for last year, the Council had occasion to protest to I.C.I. Limited against the obliterating of the path from Cowlow by Great Rocks Back Pastures and Great Rocks Stud Farm to Tunstead, and the path which commences south-east of Great Rocks Pastures Farm and traverses a general S.E. direction to Meadow Farm, crossing the railway line at three points. At a subsequent interview with the Company the question of the provision of a diverted way was considered, but some time later, on pressing that the matter be dealt with, the Council was informed that the whole matter had been referred to the Railway and Canal Commission. Shortly afterwards it was ascertained that the Company had applied to the Court of the Railway and Canal Commission under the Mines (Working Facilities and Support) Acts for an Order giving the Company the right to destroy the surface of the land and any footpaths thereon.

The Derbyshire County Council was asked by the Council to object to the draft Order that had been made, which it did, and only agreed to withdraw its opposition on the Company agreeing to confine the Order to the closing of the two paths referred to above (both of which had already been obliterated) and agreeing to maintain and keep in repair the footpath that runs from east to west across the valley through the Company's workings. In the course of the negotiations it was suggested to the Clerk to the County Council that if the negotiations for a settlement were not successful, and the draft Order was subsequently objected to, no doubt he would bear in mind the advisability of contesting the right of that Court to deal with public rights of way under the provisions of the Acts in question. It was pointed out that the public were concerned at the attempt to take away their rights under the Act, the provisions of which, if the Company's contention was correct, were prejudicial to the public interests, having regard to the fact that the safeguards that exist on an application to Quarter Sessions were done away with and that if the point could be successfully contested it would prevent the present position arising in future. In reply, the Clerk stated that if his Council had proceeded with their opposition they would certainly have taken this point, and added that if this procedure was adopted

in a case where the application could be strongly opposed on merits his Council would take the opportunity of raising the legal point as to the validity of the procedure.

During the Society's negotiations with the I.C.I. Limited the attention of the Company was called to the fact that the two well-made five-barred gates on the new path from Blackwell Mill to near Great Rocks Back Pastures Farm (being the path that was laid out in pursuance of the Order of Quarter Sessions granted on the Company's application for the diversion of the highway bridle path between such two places) were securely fastened by thick galvanised wire. The Council is pleased to report that the Company has now provided four stiles adjoining the gates on the path so that pedestrians need not open and shut the gates when using the path. The stiles are, of course, additional to the gates, so that the rights of the public have not been diminished in any way. The Company would like pedestrians to use the stiles in preference to the gates in order to obviate the risk of their tenants' cattle straying into adjoining fields.

FOOTPATHS ON "THE CLOUD," BUGLAWTON.

The Council has been in close co-operation with the highway authorities concerned, and endeavours have been made to get them to safeguard the public rights and to obtain the removal of the obstructions and "Permissive" notices. Joint meetings of the highway authorities have been held, in addition to local meetings, at which the Society has been represented. Some delay has been occasioned through so many authorities being concerned—the paths in dispute being partly in Cheshire and partly in Staffordshire. In order that progress could be made the Society prepared a Case in support of the public claim to the paths which was submitted to the Cheshire County Council along with statements of evidence that had been obtained from a very large number of witnesses. From the evidence that has been obtained by the Society it would appear to be beyond doubt that the public have used the paths from time immemorial. A suggestion was made by the County Council that a conference should take place between the Society's Solicitors and the Solicitors to Lord Egerton. Your Council agreed to this, and has recently been pressing for that conference to take place. It is understood from the Agent to Lord Egerton that the latter is at present abroad and will not be returning until early Spring, and the Agent would like the conference to wait over until then. Having regard to the time

that has elapsed since the suggestion was made, your Council urged that if Lord Egerton's return was likely to be after the end of March, the Agent should obtain instructions for the conference to take place forthwith.

FOOTPATH ON SHUTLINGS LOE.

Complaints having been received as to the obstruction of this path, investigations were made, when it was found that the correct line of path was open and unobstructed, but that portions of the path were invisible on the ground. The way up on to the ridge level from Langley is both well marked and well signposted and the wall crossings are by suitable stiles. The way up from the Wildboarclough side is also clear as far as Shutlingsloe Farm—the path to this point being the occupation road to the farm. The path continues through the farmyard and without change of direction continues due North for 170 yards, when, passing through a four-barred gate, it slants N.W. for 270 yards, when a stile in the cross wall is reached. The path from here continues in a general North-Westerly direction and becomes more clearly outlined as the descent begins towards the reservoirs. The Society's newly erected Direction Post just below Shutlingsloe Farm should serve a very useful purpose, and probably in a short time the way will become better defined.

FOOTPATHS AT DAVENHAM, NEAR NORTHWICH.

Complaints have reached the Society in regard to the interruption in the free use by the public of the footpath from opposite Davenham Church towards Bostock Green and the path that runs from the last-mentioned path and passes by New Hall and Bridge End farms to Shipbrook Bridge. During the year the field traversed by the paths was planted with turnips and at week-ends and other times the public were requested to walk round the hedges to get to the further exits. The land-owner has been asked for an assurance that he will not in future do anything that will interfere with the public rights over the paths.

FOOTPATH ALONG THE RIVER MERSEY, EAST DIDSBURY.

The attention of the Manchester Corporation was called to the obstruction of the path along the banks of the River

Mersey at the point where the path from Underbank Farm joins the path along the river bank. It was claimed that the path proceeded from that point along the river bank, underneath the Viaduct (erected when the Levenshulme to Wilmslow Line was constructed in 1910) to join at Didsbury Mill (now disused) the existing path from Wilmslow Road. The Corporation gave notice to the farmer to remove the barbed wire obstruction, which, it is understood, he promised to do. On an inspection being made it was found that such promise had not been fulfilled, and on the Corporation being informed of this the farmer was again requested to remove the obstruction. From the subsequent correspondence that took place with the Corporation it would appear that doubts have been raised as to the status of the path and the Town Clerk is at present engaged in making exhaustive enquiries into the origin and history of the path. As may be known, the Corporation has had for a considerable number of years a complete record (with maps) of all public footpaths within its boundary. Unfortunately such records only show the path in dispute as extending as far as the Viaduct. There seems to be no reason why it should end there and become a cul-de-sac, and evidence would be welcomed by your Council, to pass on to the Corporation, from any member who remembers the path continuing along to Didsbury Mill and thence, along the existing path, to Wilmslow Road.

On a nearby path from Millgate Farm to the river bank a "Trespassers will be prosecuted" notice had been erected in such a position that, although probably only referring to the land, it was likely to mislead pedestrians. The Corporation, at the request of your Council asked the landowner to change the position of the notice and this has now been done.

PROPOSED NEW AIRPORT AT RINGWAY.

In September last, the Town Clerk of Manchester approached the Society for suggestions as to the paths that it was desired to close or divert for the purposes of constructing the Airport. Such proposals were submitted, and a tentative agreement reached with the Town Clerk, which has now been approved, in principle, by the Airport Committee. The proposals provide for the construction of a field path from a point approximately 300 yards below Lane End Cottages along the Westerly and Southerly boundary of the Airport to Moss Farm. In addition, the existing path from Moss Farm to Ringway Hall Farm will, subject to a slight diversion of the Northerly portion of the path, remain until

such time as it may be necessary for the Corporation to embark on the final scheme, which event may not be for many years. Your Council endeavoured to get the Corporation to make provision for a path on the Eastern side of the Airport when it became necessary to close the path from Moss Farm to Ringway Hall Farm but as the Corporation has undertaken not to purchase land on that side (which land is extensively cultivated as market gardens) they could not agree to provide such a path. It may be stated that except for this the Corporation accepted all the Society's suggestions, and in the opinion of the Council the agreement is a very fair one and in the best interests of the public.

FOOTPATHS THROUGH MOORSIDE FARM, CHISWORTH.

As it seemed apparent that the Chisworth Parish Council did not intend to reply to the Society's communications requesting that the farmer should be asked to remove the "Private, No Road" notice and to refrain from stopping pedestrians using the path, your Council proceeded with its investigations and the obtaining of evidence. Enclosure Awards and other Records have been inspected both at London and Derby, and at the present moment arrangements are being made for the witnesses to be seen so that statements of their evidence can be taken to enable the Council to reach a decision. Efforts were made to discuss the matter with the farmer but he refused to do so with the Society's representatives.

FOOTPATHS FROM STRETFORD TO URMSTON.

Following representations made by the Council the "Temporarily Closed" notices have been removed from each end of the path along the River Mersey, and in lieu thereof the Stretford Corporation has erected a signpost worded "Public footpath to Urmston" at the Crossford Bridge end of the path, and the Urmston Urban District Council has similarly erected one worded "Public footpath to Crossford Bridge, Sale" at the Moss Road end. Efforts were made to get the latter Council to remove the barbed wire from the path through the Meadows to Meadow Road but the Council would not agree that the path was public. The interview which took place regarding such path, however, was helpful, as a suggestion was made as to a new path from St. Martin's Church, Ashton-

on-Mersey, to either Meadow Road or Cemetery Road, Urmston. The suggestion was favourably received, and both the Urmston Urban District Council and the Sale Corporation are at present considering proposals made by the Society for the provision of such a path and the footbridge that would be required.

OYSTER CLOUGH PATH.

On becoming aware of the unsatisfactory condition of the step-stile in the stone wall situated at a point about 935 yards east of Upper House and 325 yards N.W. of Wood Houses (the use of the stile having been rendered more difficult by the presence of galvanised wire supported by stakes above the level of the wall on one side), the Forestry Commissioners were asked to remove, or alter, the wire so as not to impede the use of the stile. The attention of the Commissioners was also called to the condition of the wall itself at this point, which was rather loose just by the stile and required attention in order to remove the risk of it collapsing upon a pedestrian using the stile. It is understood that the repairs are being carried out.

RIVERSIDE PATH FROM LEADMILL BRIDGE, NEAR HATHERSAGE.

Following complaints made to the Society, an inspection was made of the footbridges on the path from Leadmill Bridge on the S.W. bank of the river to the Stepping Stones, when it was found that the two footbridges South and East of Broad Hays Farm were in a very bad condition and the Bakewell Rural District Council was asked to see to the necessary repairs. It is understood that the Parish Councils of Hathersage and Outseats are considering as to the repairs to be made to the footbridges.

NEW LADYBOWER RESERVOIR, ASHOPTON.

This Reservoir, which will entail the submerging of Ashopton and Derwent villages (including the Youth Hostel at Derwent Hall) is about to be constructed. The work is being done under the provisions of the Waterboards' Act of 1920. It would appear from the plans the Waterboard has furnished to the Society that suitable provision had been made for new paths and roads and the public's interests were carefully safeguarded by the Highway Authorities concerned.

As the site of the Derwent Pack Bridge will be submerged the Council has suggested to the Waterboard that the bridge

should be rebuilt at Slippery Stones over the River Derwent, or alternatively that they might consider utilising the bridge as the footbridge which they have agreed to erect near Elmin Pits Farm across the Ashop River.

FOOTPATHS AT DANEBRIDGE.

For some time past a notice worded "Swythamley Estate Woods. Notice. Private Grounds. Fishing strictly prohibited" has been erected near to Danebridge. As it appeared from complaints received that the notice was apt to mislead pedestrians it was suggested to the landowner that he should add the words "Please keep to the path," or alternatively, if he preferred it, that he give permission for one of the Society's Notice Boards to be erected at Danebridge at a spot to be mutually agreed upon. As the owner in his reply stated that there was no public footpath the Council has now under consideration the question of all the footpaths in that area and investigations are being made.

DELAMERE FOREST FOOTPATHS.

It will be remembered that the Society submitted proposals to the Forestry Commissioners as a basis of settlement of the matter whereby the Commissioners should admit certain paths through the Forest as public—which paths, along with those laid down in the Inclosure Awards, would give a reasonable amount of access to the Forest. Although the proposals were very reasonable the Commissioners are not prepared to agree to accept them, and are only prepared to give public user of three footpaths through the Forest "during the pleasure of the Department." In the circumstances your Council had no alternative but to withdraw the offer made. The Council has appointed a sub-committee to consider as to what steps shall now be taken.

HAYFIELD—SNAKE INN PATH.

Complaints having been received as to the condition of the morass at Ashop, representations were made to the Derbyshire County Council. Some years ago drainage operations were carried out, at the suggestion of the Society, by the Chapel-le-Frith Rural District Council, but although the work was efficiently done a severe cloudburst washed down from a higher point tons of peat which had the effect of choking up the drains. The County Council has now opened out the drains, and it is hoped that this work will materially improve the condition of the path.

KNUTSFORD — ARLEY — LYMM PATH.

Despite the frequent complaints made to the County Council District Surveyor this path is periodically obstructed. In reporting the last obstruction your Council pointed out that the continual obstructing of the path was very annoying to pedestrians, and asked him to take steps to ensure that no further obstructions were placed on the path. It is now understood from him that the farmer has undertaken to erect a stile at the top of the first field from Hollowwood Farm, and to provide suitable access at the top of the next field, where the gap is at present filled with brushwood.

FOOTPATHS NEAR BRADSHAW HALL.

On the Council reporting to the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council that on the path from Bradshaw Hall to Further Bradshaw one of the stiles needed repair and was topped with a strand of wire, and also that a line of wooden stakes surmounted by a wood rail and barbed wire obstructed the continuation of such path from Further Bradshaw to Tunstead Milton, notices were served by the District Council on the occupiers of the farms to remove the obstructions and repair the defective stile. It having been ascertained from a recent inspection that the notices had been disregarded, the District Council has been informed and requested to take the necessary steps to ensure that the notices are complied with.

SLIPPERY STONES FOOTBRIDGE.

The Society's Inspector inspecting this path found that the backwash from the Derwent when in flood had made serious inroads on to the bottom step on the Eastern bank, and that some concreting would appear to be now necessary in order to save more extensive repairs later on. As there is at present a definite danger to persons crossing the bridge who would not expect their passage to terminate so abruptly the Derbyshire County Council and the Wortley Rural District Council have been requested to see to the necessary repairs.

“PERMISSIVE” NOTICES ON TATTON ESTATE.

The Council has now ascertained from the Heywood Corporation that an agreement has been reached with Lord Egerton as to the paths on the Ashworth Estate, whereby 20 paths are agreed as public rights of way and 12 as “permissive” ways. The public rights of way are as follows :—

1. The whole of the Ashworth Road from the bridge at the foot of the brow to the Ashworth Moor Reservoir.
2. The footpath from Ashworth Hall Fold, proceeding in a north-easterly direction past Lower and Higher Clough to School Lane.
3. The footpath leading from Ashworth Road (below Ashworth Fold) to Windly Cliff Bridge, Ashworth Valley.
4. The footpath from Ashworth Hall Fold to its junction with foot-path Nod. 2.
5. The footpath leading from Ashworth Road (west side just below Ashworth Hall Fold) through Black Dad Wood to Kershaw Bridge.
6. The footpath leading from Ashworth Road (west side) past Ashworth disused Colliery joining footpath Nod. 5.
7. School Lane from The Ridd in an easterly direction to the boundary of Lord Egerton's land near Ashworth Mill.
8. The footpath leading from The Ridd, northward, to St. James' Church.
9. The footpath leading from School Lane in a north-westerly direction joining footpath Nod. 8.
10. The footpath leading from School Lane in a northerly direction (from the top of Higher Clough) to Coal Bank Bleach Works.
11. The footpath leading from Coal Bank Bleach Works and proceeding in a south-westerly direction to St. James' Church down Chapel Lane to Duckworths'.
12. The footpath from St. James' Church northward to the Old House Brook joining the footpath leading to Millcroft.
13. Black Dad Lane from Ashworth Road in a south-westerly direction to Kershaw Bridge.
14. The footpath commencing at the western boundary of Lord Egerton's estate where the footpath leads to Closes, across the country to Yates' Farm thence in an easterly direction crossing Ashworth Road, passing the Quarry, Bird Fields and joining the boundary where the footpath comes down from Top o'th' Hill.
15. The footpath leading from Black Dad Lane in a westerly direction to Midge Hall to Leaches and thence to its junction with foot-path Nod. 16.
16. The footpath from Leaches Farm in a westerly direction to foot-path Nod. 18.
17. The footpath from Ashworth Road in a westerly direction past Close Barn on to Lord Egerton's boundary, joining the foot-path leading to Deeply Vale Lower Bridge (Deeply Vale Lane)
18. The footpath leading from footpath Nod. 17 in a southerly direction passing Cocks House down to Cheesden Brook near Birtle Dane Reservoir.
19. The footpath leading from Ashworth Road in the direction of Copped Hill Farm, joining the footpath leading to Marcroft Gate.
20. The footpath leading from Ashworth Road in a south-westerly direction, passing Yates' Farm and Stand Lees and joining footpath 17.

As to the notices erected on paths in the area of the Bucklow Rural District Council it is understood from the Council that many of the paths on the estate have been admitted by the Agent to be public, and that a further conference with him is to take place after a visit of inspection has been made to the other footpaths in dispute. Your Council has submitted that the Agent be asked to remove forthwith the "permissive" notices on such of the paths as have been agreed to be public.

Your council has also under consideration the "Permissive" notice on the path from Brook Bottom to Cobden Edge, the notice being erected at the commencement of the series of paths between Fox Inn and Shaw Farm.

FOOTPATH WOODSMOOR TO BRAMHALL GREEN.

This path follows the side of the Brook and—the soil being of very loose character—the banks had fallen away in places and a double line of path has become used. At the worst point some fencing had been placed to protect the public from the danger of falling down the steep bank, and in the last slipping away of the bank the fencing itself has been carried away. Following a communication from your Council to the Hazel Grove and Bramhall Urban District Council the necessary repair work has been carried out.

FOOTPATH FROM YEW TREE HOUSE TO PICKMERE.

The Council has had correspondence with the Landowner, and, subsequently, with the Bucklow Rural District Council, as to the unsatisfactory condition of the stiles on this path, as a result of which it is understood that the necessary repairs have now been carried out.

FOOTPATH FROM MOBBERLEY TO OLLERTON HALL.

On investigating complaints as to this path it was found that a ladder stile giving access from the path to the Knutsford — Chelford Road, slightly East of Brookhouse Farm, had been removed when the Road was widened, presumably by the County Council, and a fence erected that obstructs the path. The attention of the County Council was called to the obstruction, and a request made for the replacement of the ladder stile. The Council is pleased to report that the Surveyor to the County Council has made arrangements to have the stile replaced.

The path was also obstructed on the South side of Marthall Lane where a gap stile had been filled up and barbed wire fixed on the inside of the fence. On the farmer being interviewed he assured the Society's Inspector that he had no intention of obstructing the path, but that owing to the nature of the fence he had been compelled to carry it up to the bridge (crossing Marthall Brook) and desired the public to use the slip-gate—20 yards away. This gate has been left clear of barbed wire and the farmer invites the public to use it. The farmer has been informed that in the circumstances the Council will raise no objection to the suggested diversion provided he inform the Society in writing that the path through the slip-gate is public, and also that he agrees to erect either on the gate, or at the side, a simple notice inscribed "public footpath." His reply is awaited.

The attention of the Bucklow Rural District Council has been called to the condition of the stiles on the stretch of the path between the Knutsford—Chelford Road and Ollerton Hall. The stile at Ollerton Hall is lying on the ground, and the stile giving access to the road although in position is very weak. The District Council has been asked to take steps to ensure that the stiles are repaired.

FOOTPATH FROM OTTERSPOOL BRIDGE TO HATHERLOW.

It being necessary, in the opinion of the Bredbury and Romiley Urban District Council, that they should go forward with the Application to Quarter Sessions for the closing of Bunkers Hill Road, which, owing to subsidence, had become dangerous for vehicular traffic, your Council, being satisfied on the report of your Hon. Surveyor that the application was a reasonable one, and that the Order was likely to be granted, did not oppose the Application. Although the Order was duly made, the District Council is very sympathetic to the interests of the public, and as the result of the negotiations which have since taken place it is understood that, if at all possible, a diversion will be provided to allow the public to enjoy the delightful walk from Otterspool Bridge to Hatherlow. As some time may elapse before the District Council can make the necessary arrangements (a purchase of land being involved) your Council has asked that in the meantime the present road should be left open for the use of pedestrians.

FOOTPATH FROM BAKEWELL TO SHELDON.

It has been reported to the Council that this path was obstructed, and an inspection was made when there did not appear to be any deliberate attempt to close the path. Rather was it a case of neglect to use the path. Although it is almost impossible to trace the track on the ground and the stiles have to be carefully looked for in each case of a fence crossing it is possible to keep almost on the line of path by gaps, etc. The path, which is quite a useful route, is clearly awarded as a public path on the Enclosure Award, and the real need is to encourage use of the track.

FOOTPATH FROM NEAR BRINK FARM TO FURTHER HARROP FARM, NEAR KETTLESHULME.

On an inspection being made of this path it was found that the stile that formerly existed at the commencement of the path, giving access from the main road, has been obliterated. The farmer was asked to replace the stile but at a subsequent interview he intimated that he would prefer the public to use the gate at the side of the obliterated stile. The Council has informed him that no objection would be raised provided he put the gate into good condition, removed the wire therefrom, and erected a notice indicating that the way through the gate was public.

FOOTPATHS THROUGH BROWSIDE FARM, LYME HANDLEY.

It will be remembered that the owner of Browside Farm had stated his intention to close the path from Bowstonegate (which goes through the farmyard) for the purpose of erecting a new shippon across it, but that the public would be allowed to use the path on the other side of the farm along the occupation road, and your Council being satisfied that both the ways were public had asked the owner for an assurance that he will not interfere with either path. Correspondence has since taken place between the owner's Solicitors and the Society—the Council still maintaining that both ways are public. No further action need be taken at the moment as both paths are unobstructed.

PROPOSED FOOTPATH SOCIETY LIBRARY.

The Council has decided upon the formation of a small library of books and maps dealing with footpaths and foot-

path preservation. The scheme is as yet in its initial stages, but the proposal is that the books shall be deposited at the Central Reference Library in Manchester where they will be available for reference by members of the general public.

Members of the Society on production of the voucher to be issued by the Society will be enabled to borrow any volume for home study.

It is hoped in this way that members who desire to study the subject of footpath preservation more thoroughly than any existing facilities permit will have the opportunity of doing so.

It is anticipated that the scheme will be in operation by the time of the next Annual Report. Meantime the Society would welcome communication from any member who may wish to recommend the inclusion of particular books or who may have suitable books to present which are not available through the public libraries.

DIRECTION POSTS.

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

Presented by the Oldham Rucksack Club, a new post has been erected at Grains Bar.

Presented by the Manchester Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club, a new post has been erected near the Cat and Fiddle Inn.

Presented by the Manchester and Stockport Groups of the C.E. Holiday Homes Comradeship, a new post has been erected on the Disley — Whaley old road at Longside Plantation.

Presented by the Manchester Holiday Fellowship, a new post has been erected above Wildboarclough to mark commencement of Shutlingsloe path.

Presented as a memorial to the late Mr. C. N. Jones, a new post has been erected near Thornhill.

A new post has been erected at Moscar to mark the junction of Derwent Bridle road with the main road.

A new post has been erected near to Hope Mill.

A new post has been erected near Flittogate Farm.

Direction posts at Hope and Lose Hill have been repainted and a post near Peep of Day Farm has been refixed.

In addition, the following clubs and societies have previously

given or promised to give a direction post to the Society :—

The Stockport Rambling Clubs (two posts).
Manchester Rambling Club (two posts).
Peveril Social and Rambling Club.
Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club (two posts).
Out o' Doors Fellowship.
Chorlton Road Congregational Y.P.F.
Ramblers' Federation.
Manchester Pedestrian Club.
Art Museum Field Club.
Mr. B. S. Harlow.
C.H.A. "A" Section Rambling Club.
Ashton-under-Lyne and District C.H.A. Rambling Club (two posts).
Hallamshire Footpaths Society.

The Society propose to erect direction posts in the near future in the following positions :—

Near Hallot Hey, Hayfield.
Above Jacob's Ladder.
3 fingerposts at Glossop.
2 posts on the Wildmoor footpath above Goyt's Bridge.
3 posts on the Knutsford—Arley footpath.
Near Sheldon.

FINANCES.

Although there is a credit balance on the year's workings of £6 6s. 9d (reducing the debit balance of £7 15s. 7d. to £1 8s. 10d.) this result has only been made possible by the income from the legacy received under the Will of Arnold Wilson deceased. Actually there was a reduction in membership income of £7 6s. 2d. For several years now the Council has appealed for an increased membership income in order that the activities of the Society may not be restricted. Whilst calls for assistance by the Society become more numerous, the income does not increase in proportion to the expenditure necessarily involved in dealing with the additional work. The Society's efforts are for the benefit of all, whilst the burden of finding the necessary financial support falls upon a comparatively small number of generous supporters.

The Council would once again like to remind those members who may be desirous of benefiting the Society under their Wills that a specimen form of Bequest is incorporated in the Report.

As will be seen the Defence Fund has during the year been augmented by £15 18s. 10d. to £240 3s. 11d.

MEMBERSHIP.

The terms of membership are 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 within the Council's power to give.

In fixing this small minimum subscription the Society has in view the desirability of obtaining the largest possible amount of public interest; the revenue, however, from subscriptions at the minimum rate is inadequate to the needs of the Society's operations. The Secretaries of rambling clubs and kindred societies can perform a useful service if they will be good enough to bring to the notice of their members the objects and claims of the Society, and urge individual membership. It is gratifying to report that several of the larger clubs are doing so.

The Council, therefore, renews its appeal for subscriptions in excess of 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 special invitation is extended to these to attach themselves to the Society, for by so doing, they will help financially, and, through their delegates, take a part in the conduct of the Society's good work.

Affiliated Rambling Clubs & Societies.

- Accrington Naturalist & Antiquarian Society.
Alderley Edge, Wilmslow & District Footpaths Preservation Society.
Ancoats Brotherhood.
Art Museum Field Club.
Ashton-under-Lyne & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Barnsley C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Birch Heys Literary & Debating Society.
Blackpool & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Bolton C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Camping Club of Gt. Britain & Ireland (L.C. & N.W. District Association).
City News Fellowship (Ramblers Section).
Co-operative Holiday Association.
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 & Archaeologists' Society, Manchester.
Friendship Holidays' Association Manchester Rambling Club.
Hallamshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
Holiday Fellowship Limited.
Holiday Fellowship (Oldham & District Group).
Holiday Fellowship (Manchester Group).
Holiday Fellowship (Stockport Group).

AFFILIATED RAMBLING CLUBS AND SOCIETIES—*continued*

- Hyde & District Footpaths Preservation Society.
Manchester Amateur Photographic Society.
Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "A").
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 Pedestrian Club.
Manchester Rambling Club.
Manchester Social Club (Rambling Section).
Norton Ward (Sheffield) Ratepayers' Association.
Oldham & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Peak Rambling Club.
Peveril Rambling Club.
Peveril Rambling & Social Club.
"R" Club.
Ramblers' Federation (Manchester & District).
Rucksack Club.
Salford P.S.A. Rambling Club.
Sheffield C.H.A. Rambling & Social Club.
Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club.
Stockport C.H.A. Rambling & Social Club.
Stockport Field Club.
Stockport Seconians Association Rambling Club.
Trinity Wesleyan Rambling Club.
United Field Naturalists.
Vegetarian Society Social & Athletic Club.
Willersley Castle & Sidholme Ltd.
(Young Methodism Holidays).
Workers' Educational Association (Rambling Section)
Stockport.
Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club.

Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1935.

INCOME		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions for 1935—									Printing Annual Report	13	0	0			
Paid in advance as per 1934 State-									Circulars, Posters & Envelopes re same	2	3	6			
ment		0	5	0						15			3	6	
Paid during year to Dec. 31, 1935		111	9	1					Hire of Rooms				3	14	0
					111	14	1		Printing and Stationery				6	12	5
Amounts received from Clubs, etc.,									Insurance Premiums				5	17	6
for Sign Posts :—									Sign Posts and Repairs				14	18	3
Oldham Rucksack Club		2	7	6					Sub. to Commons, O.S. & F.P.S.	2	2	0			
Manchester & Stockport Group									Sub. to Pedestrian Association ...	0	10	6			
C.E. Comradeship		0	10	6					Affiliation Fees C.P.R.E. (4 branches)	2	2	0			
						2	18	0		4			14	6	
Bank Interest, less commission on									Advertising and Sundry Expenses				2	12	2
General Bank account		0	3	1					Annual Meeting : Lantern and Operator				0	15	0
Bank Interest on Deposit—trans-									Secretary's Honorarium				30	0	0
ferred from M. & S. Savings Bank									Footpaths Inspector's Honorarium				15	0	0
account		14	10	8					Footpaths Inspector's Trav. Exs. ...	10	8	9			
					14	13	9		Other Officers' Trav. Exs.	0	9	8			
										10			18	5	
						129	5	10	Maps, Plans, etc.				3	3	1
Subscriptions paid in advance for 1936									Inspection Fees re Awards, etc. ...				1	5	6
Deficit at Dec. 31, 1934		7	15	7					Postages				8	4	9
Less Excess of Income over Expendi-										122			19	1	
ture for year to Dec. 31, 1935									Deficit at Dec. 31, 1934				7	15	7
(£129 5s. 10d. less £122 19s. 1d.)		6	6	9					Subs. paid in advance for 1936, as per contra				0	10	0
										131			4	8	
Nett Deficit at Dec. 31, 1935 ...					1	8	10			£131			4	8	
					£131						4	8			

DEFENCE FUND

Balance from 1934	£	s.	d.	Balance carried forward to 1936	£	s.	d.
Donations received during year to Dec. 31, 1935 ...	224	5	1		240	3	11
	£240	3	11		£240	3	11

ARNOLD WILSON LEGACY ACCOUNT.

Proceeds of Legacy	£	s.	d.	Contra amount placed on Deposit with Manchester & Salford Savings Bank	£	s.	d.
	713	16	8		713	16	8
	£713	16	8		£713	16	8

MANCHESTER & SALFORD SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS.

Amount of Arnold Wilson Legacy	£	s.	d.	Bank Interest as per contra transferred to General Account	£	s.	d.
Amount placed on deposit ex Defence Fund Balance	713	16	8	Balance at Bank at Dec. 31, 1935	14	10	8
Bank Interest Jan. 1, 1935 to Nov. 20, 1935 ...	36	3	4		750	0	0
	£764	10	8		£764	10	8

CASH POSITION AT DECEMBER 31, 1935.

Cash at Bank (General Account)	£	s.	d.	Balance at Credit of Defence Fund	£	s.	d.
Cash on Deposit with Manchester & Salford Savings Bank	203	1	9	Arnold Wilson Legacy	240	3	11
	750	0	0	Subs. paid in advance for 1936	713	16	8
	£953	1	9	Less Nett Deficit at Dec. 31, 1935	954	10	7
					1	8	10
					£953	1	9

ALFRED E. BOWEN, *Hon. Treasurer.*THOMAS GREAVES, *Hon. Auditor.*