

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND
NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

1894 — 1955

Annual
REPORT

For 1955

THE
TESTING TIME

THE CLAYTON PRESS
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MANCHESTER 11

The Peak District & Northern Counties Footpaths
Preservation Society, 1955

President:

F. S. H. Head, B.Sc., Ph.D.

Vice-Presidents:

Rt. Hon. The Lord Chorley F. Howard
P. Daley A. J. Moon, B.A.(Cantab.)

COUNCIL.

Elected Members:

Chairman: T. Boulger
Vice-Chairman: E. E. Ambler

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D. T. Berwick	Miss M. Fletcher	A. Milner
J. E. Broom	A. W. Hewitt	R. T. Watson
J. W. Butterworth	J. P. Kenyon	H. E. Wild
J. Clarke		

Delegates from Affiliated Societies:

S. Alcock	L. Griffiths	A. E. Nash
F. Arrundale	F. Goff	L. Nathan
R. Aubry	R. Harrison	J. R. Owen
E. Bailey	F. Higgins	J. Pye
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J. D. Bettencourt,	A. Hodgkinson	N. Smith
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R. Bridge	E. Huddy	Miss M. Stott
T. Burke	R. Ingle	L. Stubbs
E. P. Campbell	M. G. Jones	C. Taylor
R. Cartin	L. Jones	H. F. Taylor
J. Chadwick	H. King	W. Taylor
F. J. Crangle	T. H. Lancashire	F. Turner
Miss F. Daly	D. J. Lee	H. Walton
Miss E. Davies	W. Marcroft	G. H. B. Ward,
W. Eastwood	H. Meadowcroft	F.R.G.S.
P. Edwards	L. G. Meadowcroft	Miss J. Ward-Oldham
T. Ewart	Miss N. Mellor	R. T. Watson
G. Fernley	S. N. Miller	J. Willison
J. L. Fleming	Miss M. Mellor	J. W. Wood
R. S. Frew	H. Mills	T. S. Wood
H. Gilliatt	S. E. Morton	

Membership Secretary:

Mrs. P. Bramwell

A. E. Nash, H. King,
G. H. B. Ward, F.R.G.S.

Signpost Supervisor:

F. Higgins

Secretary:

Arthur Smith,
"Perigarth," Tytherington Park,
Macclesfield

Hon. Auditor:

J. E. Broom

Survey Secretary:

N. Redford,

Hon. Treasurer:

G. S. Cooper,

12 Chatsworth Road, Droylsden 13 Duffield Road, Salford 6,
Inspectors of Footpaths: Lancs.
R. T. Watson, T. Ewart,

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1955

GROWING PAINS

SOCIETIES, like nations, or individuals, must progress or perish. There is no alternative. And our Society must obey this rule and keep pace with the times. Although apparently remaining unaltered, its character has been changing for many years. Originally concerned with one footpath here and another there, its scope was quite small, but it is gradually expanding and will eventually become a public service in the full sense of the term. Critics who do not realise the real nature of our task say that we are concerned with things that belong to a rapidly vanishing past, sentimental things that are of little value to people generally, ignoring the fact that every one of the millions of people living in our area is at some time or other a user of footpaths, however case-hardened a motor cyclist or car-devotee he may be. You only need to go to the Goyt Valley suspension bridge or to Redesmere to prove the truth of this.

No case is either too small or too great for our attention, and the network of paths, short and long, throughout the whole of our area constitutes at once a challenge and an inspiration. The challenge is that whenever a path is obstructed, we shall be "on our toes" ready to meet the situation; the inspiration, to serve the millions of people living in our area—all of them users of the paths—whether they are rambles, enthusiasts for the Peak, the "local people," or the crowds of folk from distant parts who flock to the area for week-ends and holidays.

It is necessary to point out these things because two years ago we set a target of 1,000 members and appealed for efforts to overcome the deficits which had been accumulating, but the financial statement shows that we have scarcely moved towards the membership goal and the tale of deficits continues. There is too much apathy and complacency in our ranks; every member should help to remedy the position. **The** testing time, we repeat, **the** testing time is facing us. How far ahead we do not know, but certain it is that we shall soon be called upon to have representatives in attendance at hearings in

Derbyshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire, and witnesses to rebut challenges to footpaths shown on draft maps and to establish rights of way omitted from them. The expense of this procedure will fall upon us. Our predecessors 50 years ago raised by public subscription an amount equivalent to £2,000 at the present day. Can we make an effort equal to theirs and achieve as great a result?

Disturbed by the financial position arising mainly from the Secretary's claim to compensation (at the rate of one guinea a day) for loss of earnings due to the onerous demands of the Society's work upon his time, the Council appointed a special committee to review his work and that of the footpath inspectors and other officers. Amongst other things, the committee agreed that the honorarium of £30 paid to the Secretary, which has remained unchanged from before the war, is appropriate and that no additional compensation (as distinct from travelling expenses) should be paid to him without prior authority of the Council, beyond an additional 12 guineas per annum. This is to enable him to undertake work of an urgent character and in particular to attend inquiries at the suggested rate of one guinea a day.

Other recommendations were: that expenditure should be controlled by budgetary methods and periodic review by the Council; that a scheme should be adopted for the reorganisation of the Society's work, on the basis of a chief inspector (honorarium) £15, four assistant inspectors (£12 10s. each), a signpost inspector (£12 10s.), and sub-inspectors without honorarium. Neither the Survey Inspector's honorarium of £25, nor that of the Treasurer, £5 5s., came under discussion. The appointment of a Minute Secretary, a Membership Secretary, and a Registrar, was recommended.

The Committee further consider that the Society's income can be increased sufficiently to cover expenditure, and that a General Purposes Committee should be formed to undertake the work arising from the special committee's report.

Accordingly a Membership Secretary, Mrs. P. Bramwell, was appointed in June, and a permanent General Purposes Committee was established, whose recommendations have been endorsed by the Council.

This Committee recommend the Special Reserve fund

to be closed and the balance distributed amongst three accounts—Expenses, Signposts and Survey—after the Defence Account has been increased to £1,000 as a reserve for fighting legal cases. They estimate that the three accounts named can be kept down in 1956 to £371, which amount will be available by the transfer of the balance of the closed reserve fund in addition to an income equal to that received in 1954. If the budgeted level of expenditure is to be maintained, in future years the Society's income will have to be increased by £51, which does not include any provision for compensation for loss of earnings, for the additional survey expenses referred to earlier, nor for the increasing activity of the Society.

RAISING FUNDS

For this purpose, six suggestions are advanced by the committee:

- (1) Local Authorities, Societies, Clubs, Ratepayers' Associations and other suitable bodies should be approached for support.
- (2) Collectors should be recruited to the existing ranks.
- (3) Individual Members should obtain new members by personal persuasion, and the Society should approach prominent individuals.
- (4) A suitable badge should be issued to be sold at an estimated profitable price of 3/6d.
- (5) Membership fees should be increased (except the affiliation fee) and a new form of Family Membership introduced, viz.:

	Present Minimum	Suggested Minimum
Ordinary Member - - -	3/6d.	5/0d.
Affiliation fee - - -	10/6d.	10/6d.
Family Member - - -	—	10/6d.
Junior Member (aged under 18)	2/0d.	2/6d.

- (6) The Signpost account should be financed in two ways:
 - (a) An INCH FUND, built up by contributions of 2/- per inch of post;
 - (b) The gift of signposts by Societies, Clubs and individuals, a list to be kept and the fact of the gift being recorded on the post, with a

target of a yearly minimum of 5 posts. The cost of a signpost to-day is £10 to £15 according to location, etc.

THE SOCIETY'S AREA

The Committee recommended the boundaries of our area to be:—

North: Leyland to Sowerby Bridge.

East: Sowerby Bridge to Ambergate, including the whole Peak District.

South: Nantwich—Ambergate.

West: Nantwich—Leyland.

OBITUARY

Dr. Vipont Brown, for many years one of our Vice-Presidents, known in his time for his forthright opinions, passed away at a great age.

Mr. J. J. Mills, Secretary of the C.H.A. and for many years a member of the Council and staunch upholder of our ideals, was taken from us after a long illness.

The passing during the year of Mr. James Barber, Surveyor of Macclesfield R.D.C., an official who had always been helpful and sympathetic, is a loss to the Society.

HAPPY EVENTS

The birth of a daughter to Mr. & Mrs. L. G. Meadowcroft.

The marriage of our Inspector, Mr. Hubert King, to Miss Dorothy Ollerenshaw.

We send to all of them our hearty congratulations and best wishes.

FOOTPATH SURVEY

S.O.S.—DRAFT MAP: The most urgent task before us to-day is that of obtaining evidence to justify our claims to paths in North Staffordshire. A plan of the 193 paths involved has been prepared, together with forms for statements and signatures. Unless prompt action is taken to complete the forms, a great many paths in the Peak District and vicinity will be lost.

During the year, hearings into claims for and against footpaths in Lancashire have continued, in some of which Mr. H. Jones, of Bolton, and Mr. Redford were lone representatives of the Society.

The exhibition of draft maps of North Cheshire, and our claims to paths in that area and in N. Staffordshire and the Chapel-en-le-Frith Division of Derbyshire, brings to a close this section of our work. Excluding Lancashire & Yorkshire, where the paths were insufficiently inspected, we can now give a full picture of our area :

	Paths included on draft maps	Paths omitted	Paths challenged
Cheshire - -	4,175	363	unknown
Derbyshire -	2,775	190	130
N. Staffs. -	1,704	166	27
	<hr/> 8,654	<hr/> 719	<hr/> 157

Ten per cent. of our footpaths are in danger. This clearly points the need of co-operation from every member, either by his stating the use he has made of the footpaths or by his taking forms and obtaining statements from users. This responsibility extends equally to every member of an affiliated organisation. The work already done will be largely nullified unless this also is done.

DIAMOND JUBILEE

When opening our Exhibition on the 7th March, Alderman R. S. Harper, the Lord Mayor of Manchester, evinced great interest in our work and pointed to certain footpaths shown, which he and the Lady Mayoress, who graced this very friendly occasion, had used. During its three weeks' life, the exhibition attracted numbers of spectators, some of whom signed statements of evidence relating to the draft maps of Bakewell Division, and of the Tatton Estate in Cheshire. Twenty-five of the visitors joined the Society and a few have become active members. We thank the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, the Libraries Committee, the Librarian and his staff for their co-operation. The ready help of Mr. Sydney Horrocks who was in charge of the arrangements was very gratifying. Of our own members, we must thank Mr. Hubert King for suggesting the feature and working enthusiastically for its success. Also Mr. L. G. Meadowcroft who staged a smaller exhibit at the Manchester Ramblers' Rally at Lyme Hall in June. The

publicity of the Press and the B.B.C. must also be gratefully acknowledged.

SUPPORT FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES

A pleasing feature of the year has been the financial support given by local authorities: Bollington, Bowdon, Manchester, and Stockport—received in that order. As an appreciation of the Society's work in freeing from obstruction the path leading from Tytherington Lane to the Iron Bridge, Bollington, the Bollington U.D. Council contributed £5 5s. to our funds. Next came a complete surprise—a donation of £1 1s. from Bowdon U.D.C. as a mark of appreciation of our work. This led us to approach certain other corporations, and we are pleased to report from Manchester Corporation a contribution of £25 and Stockport Corporation a donation of £2 2s. to our funds—a total of £33 8s. from this new source. We give our best thanks to all four authorities.

There is room for great development in this field, in which local members can take the initiative, by bringing to the notice of local councillors the value of the Society's work to residents in their area, and the Society's insistent need of an expanding income.

CANAL TOWPATHS

We still have far from enough statements to establish the Bridgewater Canal Towpath in Cheshire as a public footpath, but we think that the statements received relating to the Macclesfield and Peak Forest Towpaths in Cheshire and Derbyshire will be sufficient to safeguard public rights over them.

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND FOOTPATHS

A great and increasing difficulty, and a source of constant irritation to walkers, is caused by those Statutory Authorities who appear to regard the closure of footpaths as a mere formality. We give five examples which are now occupying our attention, one each in Derbyshire and Lancashire, and three in Cheshire. In the case of the local authorities concerned, it will be noticed that the troubles have mainly arisen because plans for housing have been passed without regard to the public footpaths.

Savoy Opera Up-to-date

A case that would have delighted the authors of the

“ Mikado ” and Iolanthe ” has recently matured at Wingerworth, near Chesterfield. The Coal Board have obtained an order for the closure of two parallel paths, subject to the usual rights of the public to object. Seven hundred yards away is a third parallel path, whose substitution would add half a mile to the route. We suggested that a diversion ought to have been made, but as the paths had already been blocked by eight high concrete posts, supporting wire netting, surmounted with barbed wire, on the other side of which the buildings and chimneys of a coal carbonisation plant have been erected, we could only protest against the vandalism.

However, an objection to the closure has been made—by the Railway Executive. They want to close the third path and desire the other two paths to remain open, because if closed the people using them will use the third path instead, and thus make its closure more difficult! The rights of the public have so far been ignored, and the site of the two paths has been unlawfully moved a few hundred yards in the expectation that authority to close completely will follow. If all three paths should be closed, either pedestrians will have to walk a mile extra, or they will cease to walk altogether, having been driven on to motor roads.

Tailpiece: The Coal Board will need so much water for their plant that a new reservoir will be required in the vicinity. Another cause for alertness.

A Garage at Euxton, near Chorley

This is a case where the Chorley R.D.C. have allowed a garage to be built without authority, which when surrounded with garden wall and gate will extinguish a footpath. Taking this as a mere formality, the R.D.C. have made an order for its closure, arguing that it is no longer needed for public use and that an alternative exists along equally convenient motor roads. The path has been little used for some time, owing to its having been obstructed, and is part of a longer path leading into Yarrow Valley, on part of which a signpost erected by a public authority has recently mysteriously disappeared. The R.D.C. are here condoning the farmer's obstruction, the building of the garage and the removal of the signpost. About a mile away a housing estate is being built for which this path will provide a welcome escape into

pleasant country away from motor roads.

Houses built on a Path in Cheadle, Cheshire

In 1933 in connection with the Society's Survey of Cheshire paths, the path from Bolshaw Road, Cheadle to Styal was traversed and a record taken of all points en route—15 stiles and 6 gates, and no obstructions of any kind. The path traverses mainly land in the Wilmslow Council's area and partly land in the Cheadle Council's area. It is a very valuable path in a part of the country being gradually encroached upon by housing estates, although supposed to lie within Manchester's green belt. The Wilmslow Council have allowed it to be obstructed at two points, and the Cheadle Council to have permitted houses to be built across it, although both authorities have shown it on their draft maps.

A petition from about 100 local people for the re-opening of the path has been presented to both councils and evidence has been obtained from persons having used the path for 70 years, but the Cheadle Council refuse to Act and are treating the matter as though it were a dispute under the Footpath Survey, which it is not. This frank evasion of responsibility is an attempt to divert us on to the County Council who have no authority over the paths in the area. Lengthy correspondence having fruitlessly passed, at the year end the Society resolved to inform the Cheadle Council that it regretted their attitude, condoning the obstruction and pressed for steps to be taken forthwith to preserve the public rights. A moment's consideration and quite a small alteration in the lay out of the development when the plans for the houses were received would have prevented all this trouble.

Petty Pool Footpaths

These paths, traversing a Cheshire beauty spot much sought after by the people of neighbouring Northwich as well as by many folk from as far away as Manchester, have been in contention for several years. The Marton (Northwich) Parish Council left the paths off the draft map and all efforts to spur the Cheshire County Council to take action to have the obstructions removed failed, even when they knew that statements had been made by local people who had used the paths for over 50 years as rights of way. A veritable barbed wire entanglement

bars one path, an ornamental garden and stone wall (built at a cost of £250) another, and elsewhere other impediments have been created.

The principal owner succeeded in preventing action being taken to free these paths which lie in the area of Northwich R.D.C. and the Winsford U.D.C. It was alleged that a gamekeeper of Lord Delamere had signed a statement that the paths had always been considered private, but when the house with the ornamental garden was sold in July, this document, running into several foolscap pages, was read. One single statement contained all that mattered: the gamekeeper believed that "the land between 1918 and 1951 was used by Lord Delamere for shooting purposes and no adverse claim was made against him." Of course not, for the foot-path, being freely used, there was no cause to make any claim. And on the strength of such statements the local authorities have allowed the public to be denied their rights.

A precis of solid evidence has been prepared, covering eight foolscap pages from 96 statements, referring to these paths and others at Cookstool in the same area and under the same council's authority.

A Mobberley Path

Last year we drew attention to the garden that had been placed across the Moss Lane end of the path from Blue Ball Farm to Moss Lane. This year we can only record that the promises made by the Bucklow Rural District Council have not been fulfilled, and that the obstacle remains.

MOTOR CYCLE TRIALS ON FOOT AND BRIDLE PATHS

One of the most pernicious developments of recent years has been the invasion of foot and bridle paths by motor cyclists, especially, but not only, in the Peak District. We have been carrying on an inconclusive rear-guard action for years with those farmers who consider they have a right to plough up and destroy the surface of a path at will, and now motor cyclists have begun in large numbers to destroy the surface of paths that were never ploughed, so that the walker finds himself more hemmed-in than ever by the destroyers of his enjoyment. Nor is the destruction confined to the surface of the paths

—the noise, bustle and smell wreck the very atmosphere of the countryside.

County Councils having converted delectable lanes into county roads disagreeably hard for walkers, and motorists having driven walkers off them, and ploughmen and motor cyclists churning up the footpaths, whither shall the walker turn for peaceful contemplation? Note this also: neither the motor cyclists nor their organisations did anything to help the establishment of National Parks and Access to the Countryside which they are so ready to abuse. Not that they would have been justified thereby in abusing the countryside. The citizen is prone to regard every mechanical and technical discovery as progress; unfortunately he does not realise how surely he is being conquered by the devils of his own creation.

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For some time we have been fighting against more or less desultory trials on bridle roads such as that at Throstles Nest on Chinley Churn and Roych Clough, but on the last Sunday in October, a tide of 70 motor cyclists flowed over many paths in the Castleton, Hope and Edale area.

We pressed for legal action to be taken by the Derbyshire County Council, but due to the involved nature of the law, they thought they could not do so. It is not certain that the County Council are correct in this opinion, although the law is admittedly involved and can be interpreted in more than one way. At the same time we pressed for the law to be amended, to put it beyond doubt that trials of wheeled vehicles on foot and bridle paths shall be illegal and that the law should be made more stringent against wheeled vehicles in any case, using such paths. There is an immediate opportunity to have this done by introducing new clauses in the Road Traffic Bill which is before Parliament at the time of writing, and we have suggested clauses which we think adequate to the purpose. Until these have been considered it would be premature to say more about them.

The law at present appears to be much stronger in our favour than either the police or the county councils are willing to admit, and there is every likelihood that had the Derbyshire County Council taken proceedings against the motor cyclists they would have succeeded; and by

a sidewind, as it were, have brought a great benefit to walkers. For the same arguments that might have won this case might also have been used to prevent footpaths from being ploughed up whether they had been customarily ploughed up or not, and likewise to prevent their abuse by the carts and tractors of farmers and others.

PROPOSED ROAD-RACING CIRCUIT IN THE PEAK

An outrageous scheme was approved last May by the Derbyshire County Council for an international road-racing circuit in the Peak Park between Dovedale and Lathkill Dale. If carried into effect, seven footpaths and a green lane will be physically unusable whenever the track is in use and Arbor Low stone circle and Gib Hill inaccessible, whilst the quietness of the surrounding countryside will be destroyed. Inevitably, developments of the worst possible kind will accompany the creation of the circuit. All is quiet at the moment, but we are alive to the situation, and hope that members and affiliated clubs will watch for developments, and when they learn that a Parliamentary Bill has been introduced, write to their M.P.s asking them to oppose it strenuously.

HEYWOOD AND MIDDLETON WATER BILL

In the Naden Valley, north of Heywood in Lancashire, the Heywood & Middleton Water Board have four reservoirs, the most southerly of them being an old mill dam. This they now propose to enlarge into a sizeable reservoir. Towards the end of the year a Bill was introduced into Parliament giving powers to close eight footpaths and divert four others. This scheme is now being investigated, and all objections have to be lodged before the end of January. A meeting has been arranged between the Society's officers and the Board's Surveyor for the inspection of plans and discussion of the scheme's effect on the neighbouring footpaths. A report will then be made for the approval of the next meeting of our Council.

FOOTBRIDGES

No. 1. Rowarth: An unexpected situation has developed with regard to this bridge: At the meeting at New Mills Town Hall in July, 1954, held by an Inspector of the Ministry of Transport, our Representatives agreed that

the Society should contribute towards the cost of stepping stones to replace this bridge, whilst not committing themselves as to the amount. No amount of subsequent persuasion would induce the Clerk of the New Mills Council to proceed with the scheme. During the year, he left, and one of the first acts of the new Clerk was to send us an estimate and plan for the work, which was expected to cost £70, with a suggestion that we pay half-cost. Our Council considered this in July and decided to defer further consideration until the New Year.

No. 2. Rowarth: Another footbridge at Rowarth was reported in September to be in a dangerous condition. Complaint was made to the New Mills Council and we are pleased to report that a repair was effected within a month's time. Is this a record? The prompt action of the new Clerk is greatly appreciated.

No. 3. Goyt Valley: On our giving notice that a footbridge on the westerly side of the reservoir was in a dangerous state, the Derbyshire County Council repaired it.

No. 4. Handforth: The Wilmslow Council have not yet allocated funds for the repair of this bridge. When money was slack they said that other matters had priority; now it is tight, it will not stretch far enough. So matters have continued for nearly 10 years; when shall we be able to use the path again—a valuable path in a part of the country rapidly becoming built-up?

No. 5. Marthall Brook, Cheshire: Although we asked for statements from users of the path from the Dun Cow Inn, Ollerton, to Gleve House Farm, Mobberley, in last year's and the previous year's Report, none has been received. Again we appeal for them.

No. 6. Swettenham: The Cheshire County Surveyor has now erected a substantial concrete bridge on the path to Lower Withington.

No. 7. Foreign Hey, Mottram St. Andrew: This bridge was notified in a dangerous condition, and the Cheshire County Council temporarily closed the path. They have agreed to repair the bridge this Spring.

No. 8. Plumbley—Tabley Grange path: The Cheshire County Surveyor has repaired this bridge and cut away undergrowth.

No. 9. Upper Fold, near Chapel-en-le-Frith: Last year's Report indicated that this occupation bridge carrying a

public path, had partially collapsed. The Derbyshire County Council had declined to repair it, as that would have meant spending money on a private road beyond what was necessary to maintain the path. Since then negotiations between the County Council and the principal owner have resulted in the former offering to pay that part of the cost of repair attributable to the footpath, which he has accepted. So we may soon see this bridge completely re-instated.

No. 10. near Outside Farm, Chester Lane, Marton-by-Northwich: Here there have been obstructions, and two small footbridges are missing, essential links in two paths. The obstructions have been removed, and the Cheshire County Surveyor has agreed to provide the bridges.

FOOTPATH LIBRARY

This service appears to be fairly well used, but no additions have been received during the year. If it is to develop, a regular supply of books and maps is essential, but they cannot very well be provided from our regular funds. Perhaps an improvement could be made by appointing a librarian?

DAMAGE & LITTER IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

We continually deplore the vandalism that tends not only to rob the countryside of its charm, but makes our work more difficult, as the country dweller is too apt mistakenly to identify us with the hooligans who cause the trouble.

SIGNPOSTS

During his first year of office as Signpost Supervisor, Mr. Frank Higgins has done the following work:

Repainting: Posts 14, 18, 19, 20, and 72 on the Abbey Grange—Strines path at Derwent Edge. Post 57 on Derwent—Fairholmes road above Ladybower. Post 113 at Grindsbrook, Edale; Post 12 on Derwent—Mosar bridle path; Posts 51 and 52 near Flouch Inn, Hazelhead; Post 75 near Moscar House Farm, and post 86 near Moscar cottage. Post at Hollowwood Farm (Knutsford to Arley footpath).

Refixing: Post 19 at Green Sitches, Derwent Edge. Post 13, new post at Grindsbrook; New post at Hollow-

wood Farm (Knutsford to Arley path). After relinquishing office, Mr. Wild attended to posts on the Hayfield—Snake path.

DERBYSHIRE FOOTPATHS

With a view to increasing co-operation between the Society and the Derbyshire County Council, the Secretary in August last inspected eleven paths together with the Assistant Surveyor of that Authority. Later he met the Assistant Solicitor of the same body, and discussed problems relative to draft maps, signposts, repair of footpaths and other matters, and at a later date met the Chairman of the Highways' Committee.

Bank Top Farm, Hartington path: The Ashbourne R.D.C. have obtained the removal of obstructions from this footpath.

Peep o' Day to Phoside Farm: Chapel-en-le-Frith R.D.C. have had obstructions on this path removed.

Fern House Lodge, Buxton to Harpur Hill: Buxton Cor. are replacing decayed signposts on this path.

King Sterndale to Deep Dale: We have had considerable trouble about a section of this path having been obstructed at three points. The Chapel R.D.C. have effected improvements.

River Derwent between Shatton & Leadmill Bridge: Derbyshire County Council affixed two notices adjoining this path stating: Footpath closed Unsafe! We objected and the word closed has been deleted. We still think the notice too strong, and have made suitable representations.

Footpaths on Tideswell Moor: The Bakewell R.D.C. unfortunately have been dilatory in dealing with obstructions here, and we are still seeking an effective remedy.

F.P. from Brough to Shatton: Since our last report, the farmer's attitude has hardened and he refuses to remove the obstructions to this path. He seems determined to contest the right of way.

F.P. Deep Dale to Wheel Lane, near Monsal Dale: We are urgently needing statements from people who have used this path for more than 20 years without interference in order to establish the right of way and have obstructions removed. Any offers? This valuable path is in one of the loveliest parts of the Peak Park.

FOOTPATHS IN CHESHIRE

Gawsworth Church to Rode Green Cottages: After six years' time, this path is now free from obstructions. We would like to thank Mr. Abbott, Clerk of the Macclesfield R.D.C., and Mr. Pollard, Chairman, for using their influence to obtain the re-instatement of the path.

Sandbach Vicarage path: After some years, this path is also freed, by the efforts of the Congleton R.D.C. We are grateful to the Clerk, Mr. Cross, for bringing about this happy result.

F.P. from Castle Mill to Castle Hill Farm: Here the County Surveyor has replaced a plank bridge over a stream and at the instance of our Inspector, Mr. Watson, the Bucklow R.D.C. have caused several obstructed stiles to be freed.

Footpath at Marton Sands, near Northwich: This path having been partially destroyed by sand quarrying, we pressed the County Council to act, and are glad to report that they have arranged for a diversion, and will in due course provide a necessary footbridge.

Thorneyholme Estate to Old Church, Knutsford: Knutsford U.D.C. have had the surface of this path improved and stiles repaired.

From Shaw Heath, Knutsford to Broadoak Farm, Mobberley: This path having been closed by the Army during the war, the farmer at Shaw Heath tried by obstruction and challenge to users, to close it. The Knutsford U.D.C., however, have agreed to place stiles on the path, and have warned the farmer against any further interference with it.

Footpaths at Woodford Aerodrome: For some years the paths here have been in the melting pot, but at last, by the good offices of Mr. Abbott, Clerk to the Macclesfield R.D.C., a scheme has been put forward and accepted by the owner of Lostock Hall Farm which will give the public an adequate return for the footpaths they have lost. It now remains to be accepted by the Aerodrome proprietors, Messrs. A. V. Roe & Co. Ltd.

Little Leigh to Stone Hays Lane, Barnton, nr. Northwich: After 18 months effort, the Northwich R.D.C. have succeeded in having two footpaths freed and sufficient stiles erected.

Footpaths in the Wilmslow & Alderley Society's area: During the year we have sent along to the above Society

about 20 complaints relating to paths in Moberley, Marthall, and district, which are being followed-up.

Misleading notice at Windermere: After a holidaymaker complained about a notice leading visitors to believe that a woodland path was private, the Lancashire County Council had its position altered, to avoid any such misunderstanding.

The above are only a few of the cases we have dealt with and which are still current in all parts of our area. We would like to thank the Authorities and Officials who have co-operated with us in keeping footpaths walkable.

Affiliated Rambling Clubs and Societies, 1955

Accrington Naturalist and Antiquarian Society.
Altrincham & Dist. Natural History Society.
Ashton-under-Lyne and District C.H.A. and H.F. Rambling Club.
Barnsley C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Barnsley Mountaineering Club.
Bolton C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Bowdon Warlocks.
Bramhall Ratepayers' Association.
Bury and District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Camping Club of Great Britain and Ireland, North-West Region.
C.E. Holiday Homes.
Central Rambling Club.
Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes,
Manchester Section.
Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes,
Stockport Section.
Co-operative Holidays Association.
C.P.R.E. Congleton District Committee.
Crescent Rambling Club.
Derby C.H.A. and H.F. Rambling Club.
Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
Eastwood Ramblers.
Eccles C.H.A. Social and Rambling Club.
Friendship Holidays Association (Manchester) Rambling Club.
Hallamshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
High Lane Residents' Association
Holiday Fellowship Ltd.
Holiday Fellowship, Manchester Group.
Holiday Fellowship, Oldham and District Group.
Macclesfield and District Field Club.
Manchester A.E.I. Rambling Club.
Manchester Amateur Photographic Society.
Manchester Association Rambling Club.
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. Social Club.
Manchester and District Rambling Club for the Blind.

Manchester Fellowship (Ramblers' Section).
 Manchester H.S.C. Languages Rambling Club.
 Manchester Pedestrian Club.
 Manchester Field Naturalists' and Archaeologists' Society.
 Manchester Rambling Club.
 The Moorland Ramblers' Club.
 North Western Naturalists' Union.
 Oldham and District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
 Oldham Photographic Society.
 Ramblers' Association (Liverpool and District Federation).
 Ramblers' Association (Manchester and District Federation).
 Ramblers' Association (Sheffield and District Federation).
 Rucksack Club.
 Sheffield C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "A").
 Sheffield C.H.A. Rambling and Social Club.
 Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club.
 South-East Lancashire County Scout Council.
 Stockport C.H.A. Rambling and Social Club.
 Stockport Field Club.
 Stockport Seconians' Association Rambling Club.
 Stockport W.E.A. Rambling Club.
 Sutton-in-Ashfield and District Rambling Club.
 United Field Naturalists' Society.
 Wayfarers' Rambling Club.
 Wesley Guild Holidays.
 Woodford Residents' Association.
 Workers' Travel Association.
 Youth Hostels Association (Burnage and Levenshulme Group).
 Youth Hostels Association (Manchester and Salford Sub-Regional Group).
 Youth Hostels Association (Prestwich Area Group).
 Youth Hostels Association (Sheffield Sub-Regional Group).

Original bequests made to the Society

	£	s.	d.
Arnold Wilson Legacy	713	16	8
G. H. B. Ward, F.R.G.S.—Gift towards erection and maintenance of Signposts	50	0	0
Anonymous	12	10	0
Edwin Royce Legacy	500	0	0
J. A. Rowcroft Bequest	50	0	0
J. Macauley Legacy	100	0	0
P. M. Oliver Annuity	60	0	0

The Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

1954		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		1954		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
£ s. d.						£ s. d.					
30 7 0	To EXPENDITURE					— — —	By INCOME				
5 0 2	Annual Report: Printing	36	11	6		3 6 0	Balance brought forward from 1954				
	Distribution	6	0	9			Subscriptions—				
					42 12 3		Paid in Advance as per 1954 Statement—				
11 15 9	Hire of Rooms				29 15 0		5 Members	1	8	9	
24 14 9	Printing and Stationery				74 4	127 4 10	Received during 1955—504 Members	132	4	0	
0 10 0	Insurance Premiums				— — —	60 19 0	57 Societies	63	19	6	
07 11 5	Signpost Erected and Maintained	54	16	1							107 12 3
53 8 5	Less Contributions Received	1	6	6		5 18 0	Donations to General Fund	27	12	6	
					53 9 7	25 15 0	Donations to Defence Fund	34	11	3	
2 2 0	Subscriptions to Commons, Open Spaces										62 3 9
	and Footpaths Preservation Society	2	2	0		40 19 1	Bank Interest on Deposits at the Man-				
2 2 0	Affiliations to Four Branches of the					— — —	chester & Salford Savings Bank	36	19	3	
	C.P.R.E.	2	2	0			Interest on P. M. Oliver Trust Fund	35	1	0	
					4 4 0						72 0 3
0 1 8	Sundry Expenses				6 6 6	1 8 9	Subscription Paid in Advance for 1956/57—				
6 3 0	Cost of 1955 Annual General Meeting						5 Members				1 17 6
30 0 0	Honorariums: Secretary	30	0	0			Transfer from "Special Reserve" Fund to				
52 10 0	Four Footpaths Inspectors..	52	10	0		58 16 10	cover cost of (a) Survey	70	10	5	
— — —	Signpost Inspector	12	10	0		— — —	(b) Exhibition	23	4	0	
5 5 0	Treasurer	5	5	0		27 0 9	(c) Jubilee	—	—	—	
					100 5 0						93 14 5
31 10 3	Travelling Expenses: Secretary	12	0	10							427 8 2
9 3 4	Four Footpaths					24 18 0	Balance being Deficit on current year				75 18 5
	Inspectors	9	16	3							
— — —	Signpost Inspector ..	—	—	—							
3 11 1	Other Officials	0	13	0							
					22 10 1						
23 17 5	Postages and Telephones				32 18 9						
0 12 6	Cheque Books—Two	0	8	4							
1 10 0	Bank Charges	1	15	0							
					2 3 4						
1 8 9	Subscriptions Paid in Advance for 1956—										
	Five Members				1 17 6						
— — —	Maps and Plans				4 14 0						
89 7 4	Footpaths Survey	75	1	11							
0 10 6	Less Contributions Received	4	11	6							
					70 10 5						
27 0 9	Diamond Jubilee				— — —						
— — —	Exhibition				23 4 0						
25 15 0	Donations to Defence Fund				34 11 3						
403 0 3					£503 6 7						
						403 0 3					£503 6 7

Issued subject to audit, approval by Council and correction against receipt of further accounts of expenses.

9/1/56.

G. S. COOPER, Hon. Treasurer.

BALANCE SHEET at 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cash	5 9 9	
Bank	81 12 5	
Deposits at Manchester & Salford		
Savings Bank	1188 12 1	
	<u>1275 14 3</u>	
Less Accrued	5 12 6	
		1270 1 9
		<u>£1270 1 9</u>

	£ s. d.
Balances standing to credit of—	
Defence Fund	1000 0 0
Signpost Account	60 0 0
Survey Account	55 0 0
Expense Account	155 1 9
	<u>£1270 1 9</u>

9/1/56.

G. S. COOPER, Hon. Treasurer.