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PEAK & NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

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ANNUAL REPORT

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1997

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## ANNUAL REPORT 1997

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Registered Charity No. 212219

Regrettably, it has not been possible to include the accounts in the annual report but we confidently expect to include them as an insert



*Cover illustration shows the conclusion of the Snake Path Anniversary Walk at Hayfield*

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

NORMAN EDWARDS

It is difficult to know what to report in a year that has been busy and not without excitement. How does one take over from a Chairman first appointed at the annual general meeting in 1971? I wondered how Leslie Meadowcroft had coped when he took over from the late Dr Frank Head.

Reading the annual report for 1971 proved interesting and it indicates just how far the Society has matured over the years. The new Highways Act was discussed and the efforts of landowners and farmers' organisations for rationalising the footpath network was examined. There appeared to be no recognition that the Society had a new chairman nor any indication whether the comments were written by him. The report gives an insight into how the Society has progressed over the last quarter of a century. Membership has increased significantly as have the number of footpath inspectors. The funds of the Society were just over £9000, signpost work was getting going with a special offer of £3.25 per signpost!

It is only when you pay a visit to Hazel Grove and see the volunteer team working on the various jobs that you can realise the huge amount of work undertaken by the team. I cannot thank them enough for the time and effort they give to enable the work of the Society to function smoothly. The amount of archive material available is remarkable and a history of all the paths in the Society's area is evolving. We are all hugely indebted to Leslie for the work and effort that he has put in over the years and I would like to extend the appreciation of the members. Our thanks also go to Lorna for her support and contribution. Thankfully Leslie is not bowing out and is still actively involved in the work of the Society.

It is always difficult to thank individual members for their contribution to the work of the Society as there are so many who contribute. The officers have given me the support required and have been left to carry out their duties. The footpath inspectors too have given valuable service and, together with those who serve on advisory and consultation committees, their efforts are greatly appreciated.

During the year we lost two workers who have given considerable help and advice. Frank Whitehead, a former vice chairman, found it necessary to resign and the Monday group is poorer for this with his organisation and efficient handling of matters being greatly missed. Adrian Littleton has resigned his posts of Vice Chairman and Courts and Enquiry Officer; his legal advice will be sorely missed and this post must be filled as quickly as possible.

Mentioning volunteers leads me to the perennial problem ... we desperately need more. Most volunteers, excluding footpath inspectors, are retired people. None of us is getting younger, most have retired after many years of hard work with long hours. We do not want to start up with another occupation that ties us down. There is a need for us all to enjoy our retirement. During the whole year many disappear on holiday to enjoy life whilst they still have the means and health. So after reading this if you feel that you can spare some time to aid the Society on a part time basis then please contact our Secretary or myself. We need help in two areas in particular. Firstly, for lawyers to help with closure and diversions work which involves preparing the case and attending inquiries or magistrate courts; ideally several volunteers would allow the load to be spread. It would be nice to be able to put some teeth back into the Society and start dealing with more closures and diversions. The other area is that of information technology. Is there a computer literate person who could set us on the right path to enable the Society to go forth into the next century with the technology needed for us to compete on level terms with local authorities and others?

We are pressing on with our quest of obtaining some property so that the Society can move its archives and workstations into more spacious accommodation. Our efforts to obtain grants including the lottery have come to nothing. This problem will have to be addressed next year. The lottery will not finance the acquisition of property or we do not fall into the correct criteria for grants. I feel sure that we will win through in the end.

It is encouraging that we again have a signpost officer; Bill Johnson has accepted this post and he will excel in the position. Thanks go to Percy Hutchinson for holding my hand in the interim whilst his knowledge and help to Bill in getting into the job are appreciated. I must confess it has been an experience to see the workers getting to grips with the construction of the signs. Watching Cliff Wilding with his carpentry expertise is a joy. For someone who cannot saw in a straight line or screw a screw in straight it was a valuable experience. We are certainly fortunate in our members. Brian Luckham has also been a great help with the administration.

The Society would not function without the efforts of our Secretary. His house is again a mass of files relating to both the Society's work and path obstructions. I extend my appreciation to him for his support, advice and friendship and to his patient and long suffering wife, Betty, whose contribution and patience are invaluable.

On reading this report you will appreciate the amount of work carried on by the Society. The reported items are only the tip of the iceberg; there are far more issues involved and if all were to be indexed this report would be many times its size.

All the efforts have one aim; that of enabling members to enjoy walking the many footpaths and other rights of way free from obstruction or interference. Fortunately, we now have local authorities who realise that walking is a great recreation and the ranger

services are constantly trying to make the network more readily available to all. We appreciate these efforts but there are still many problems that need addressing. Well then, where are we going? Those who walk a lot will appreciate there are still areas where walking is difficult, there are still places where there are seemingly deliberate attempts to dissuade walkers from following rights of way. The Society is still needed and with our network of footpath officers and other workers we will continue chasing up these areas. It is 100 years since our first success when the Snake Path was reopened by the efforts of the early officers of this Society. The efforts of the Society may not be on such prominent paths but we will still work to enable members to be able to use legal paths without interference or interruption. This would be easier with more assistance.

I am concerned about the number of footpaths that are being re-graded into bridleways or byways. We do not seem to have the means to challenge these as they are all accompanied by user declarations. It is pleasing to note that a regrading to a BOAT is more difficult, as illegal use by motorised vehicles cannot be used to make a claim. It seems no longer possible to really enjoy the peace of the countryside without the noise of off-road vehicles and motor cycles. The mountain bikers some-times bear down on one with venom. The paths we love are churned up by four legged animals and cycles. I appreciate we have to share the countryside with other users but walkers seem to be loosing out all the time.

When out walking I must ask you not to avoid paths that are overgrown, especially headland paths. It is the constant use of this type of paths that will put pressure on the landowner and the local authority to start clearing the way. Perhaps in some cases it is our own fault that some paths are under-used and overgrown. □

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LESLIE MEADOWCROFT

**7**his Society has a history of appointing working presidents as a reward for holding the senior officer post and in April 1997 I filled a long outstanding vacancy following the death of Dr Frank Head some years ago.

After serving for very many years as chairman, my election to this elevated post has as yet had little compensation in the way of free time, apart from shedding the responsibility of sitting in the hot seat at our monthly meetings. I wonder if the spectator will now see more of the game?

By the time these comments are published we shall have lost two very experienced members from our Cosa Unit and suitable replacements are still being sought for this essential and very friendly unit. If you have retired recently and wish to keep an active mind, away from the 'the box' and rocking chair, this is the place for you. If you can make this a number one priority on a fairly regular basis and share with other congenial members, many with a common interest, you will have added extra zest to your life.

Senior officers, both active and retired, can often be found working with the Cosa team and there is an opportunity, deriving from the many different facets of interest, to learn just how the Society has been 'ticking' for the last 100 years.

Officialdom sees footpath societies as strange animals and cannot make out whether we are fish, flesh or red herring as they debate whether we are *recreation* or *conservation*. That we are few in number these days is not disputed, being one of the main three in the north west; the other two being the Mid-Cheshire, and the Derbyshire societies with whom we have good co-operation.

During the past year we have seen the re-opening of the Bunker Hill path at Chadkirk and the legal establishment of the Benfield path, both in Bredbury & Romiley. In the latter case a bridge is needed and several fences to be stiled. Officers of Stockport MB and myself were heavily criticised by local landowners for crossing fences obstructing the definitive line during a recent inspection! The saga of Bredbury & Romiley FP43 in Reddish Vale continues and we await the post natal actions of the rights of way officer concerned. In this case the Society's tolerance has been more than generous.

Our relationships with the Peak National Park, North West Water and the NW Federation for Sport, Recreation & Conservation continue to have beneficial results. □

## ✂ Annual Dinner 1997 ✂

Friday 11th April was the occasion of our annual dinner when, once again, we were made most welcome by the manager and staff of the Freemasons' Hall in Bridge Street. The meal and service were once again of the highest order.

Our guest speaker was Mr Steve Tivey, Countryside Access Manager, Cheshire CC.

The response to the toast to 'The Society' was made by Peter Chapman, the Society's inspector for part of Cheshire and the vote of thanks was proposed by Eric Hodgkinson Chairman of the Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society.

Please note that the 1998 dinner will be held at the same venue on the 8th May when the speaker will be Alan Mattingly, former Director of the Ramblers' Association

# Trails of Freedom by JH

The pages of history, turned over, reveal stories so wondrously told,  
Of deeds of valour so splendid, performed by great heroes of old,  
These mighty men of tradition, so valiant, so bold and so brave,  
Are revered by ordinary mortals for service they gallantly gave.

The statues and monuments in cities, built to record their might,  
Fill us with wonder, as we stand and gaze at these great defenders of right,  
What they defended is so hard to tell, one ponders, why did they bother?  
Across the sea, stand obelisks great, showing where one defended against t'other.

In a modest Manchester corner is a simple blue circular plaque,  
Now this records what I've really been given. Freedom I'll never give back  
The joy to roam through the the woodlands, to wander through uplands and vales,  
With pack on my back and song in my heart to march on those wonderful trails.

This plaque speaks to all who look on, of deeds of a century passed by,  
Of men whose monument stretches for miles and reaches right up to the sky,  
Not pillars of stone or statues of bronze, to decay with time or the weather,  
But superb trails through moorland and dales dedicated for us for ever.

These men of modest pretensions, men of no great ambitions to fame,  
Banded together, fought all opposition and gave our Society its name,  
In this name they opened the landscape for those who enjoy nature's call,  
No discrimination who should tread the paths, a bounty given to all

This year will live long in memory. A century has now passed away,  
Since that signpost standing in Hayfield showing the 29th of May,  
Tells of the pathway that rises o'er Kinder. It's there for all who would climb,  
It beckons, come now, the Snake Path is open from now to the end of all time.

PEAK DISTRICT  
& N.C. FOOTPATHS  
SOCIETY

**THIS FOOTPATH TO  
THE SNAKE INN VIA  
WILLIAM CLOUGH &  
THE ASHOP VALLEY  
DEDICATED FOR EVER**

**MAY 29 1897**

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

DEREK TAYLOR

## Of people & places ...

In my preamble to the report on the performance of individual authorities I thought that this year I would concentrate on two very important issues affecting the society's work and so I will talk of 'People & Places'.

Of people first, I know that the Chairman has written in a similar vein but the message will stand repeating. The Society has a total of over a thousand members and many thousands more as members of our affiliated societies.

Within those numbers must be people with almost every skill possible, most acquired as a result of years of experience.

Many of our members are now in retirement and doubtless enjoy their walking. The Society officers are 'the few' serving 'the many'. As I go around presenting the Society's slide lecture to affiliated bodies and others, I sense a real appreciation of the work we do. But I just wonder if our members appreciate just how much effort 'the few' put in to ensure that 'the many' have paths in such a condition that they enjoy their walk. Would you, therefore, as one of the many give some consideration to putting your skills, whatever they may be, towards helping the Society and reducing the workload of the few. I would be delighted to hear from any member who

can spare some time, say two to three hours a week, to put their skills to good use on behalf of the Society.

And now for places. By now, most if not all our members will be aware of the Society's quest for premises from which to conduct our business. I have told my fellow officers that I have a dream that before too long we will have a building which has been or could be modernised, at a correct location, of adequate size, with suitable parking and a facility to accommodate all the departments of the society including a workshop and storage area for the signpost team and its equipment.

This is a dream, but it is well founded and I have looked at over 30 premises of which only two met the criteria we were looking for. One of these was sold before we could make an offer; the other, on Wellington Road North in Stockport, is still on offer but the asking price is some 20 to 30 thousand pounds more than we are prepared to pay. We are also awaiting sale details of the Cemetery Lodge at Cheadle, which we feel could be adequate for our needs but, although Stockport Council have agreed the sale, they have not come up with a price. North West Water have also indicated they might be able to find us suitable premises but this has not materialised into anything factual.

Our appeal for funds over the last two years has met with a considerable positive response as will be seen from the annual accounts; we could of course always use more money, who couldn't, so please keep the donations coming. An extra 20 to 30 thousand pounds would enable us to purchase the premises mentioned above. We are looking for a lottery winner or similar .... any offers!!

## CHESHIRE

### Cheshire County Council

Our relations with the County rights of way team continue to prosper although that is not to say that all is to our satisfaction. On the debit side, we are still waiting for positive action by the Council regarding three missing bridges over the Macclesfield Canal. They have promised legal action against British Waterways Board but I have still to see any positive action in that respect. On the credit side, the County have recently taken farmers to court following repeated ploughing offences, but the response, certainly of Macclesfield magistrates, has been less than acceptable.

In the three cases brought before the Court, the first accused pleaded guilty, the second pleaded not guilty and then changed his plea; both were given an absolute discharge and the County's applications for costs were rejected. In the third case, heard before a stipendiary magistrate, the accused failed to turn up in court, the case was heard in his absence, he was found guilty and fined £200. In each case it is estimated the County's costs would be between £500 and £1000.

Looking ahead, after April next year we will see a new style county in that local government re-organisation will result in Warrington and Halton becoming unitary authorities with a consequent loss of revenue to the new county. We are told this will certainly result in a reduction of the rights of way staff and I am extremely concerned that the excellent work which has gone on over the last three to four years will be substantially curtailed. I suppose we must wait to see what the overall effect of the loss of revenue will mean. I see difficult times ahead in Cheshire.

### Warrington BC

Warrington will become a unitary authority in April 1998. They were never very good at dealing with rights of way matters as agent for the County and I suppose things can only get better, or can they? I have already made representations to the Council, pressing them to appoint a rights of way officer as part of their 'new' image but they have not even replied.

We ourselves are in some difficulty in this area in that we have no inspector for the area north of the Ship Canal... Any volunteers?

### Macclesfield BC

In virtually every aspect of rights of way matters, this Council is found wanting. They allow development over rights of way and fail to deal correctly with temporary closure & diversion of paths; I have recently lodged a formal complaint with the Council under the Citizens Charter with regard to the latter problem. At every possible opportunity I continue to ask the County to take back from the Borough their Highways Agency agreement relating to rights of way. The County seem reluctant to do so and I must therefore, as always, persevere.

## GREATER MANCHESTER

### Bolton MBC

In my report last year, I noted a fall-off in the positive approach of previous years. I am delighted to tell you there has been a quite dramatic improvement during 1997 with the appointment of a new footpath officer and an assistant. Complaints are now acknowledged promptly and update reports are sent to me regularly.

We continue to wait for some positive response to our request for a replacement

bridge over the River Irwell at GR764064. This will be a very costly exercise but I am confident that, if approaches are made to the many sources of funding available for this type of scheme, we will meet with some success. At the moment both Bolton and Bury are busy casting round for excuses as to why they can't do the job, rather than making positive approaches for funding to appropriate bodies. We continue to meet regularly with the Council.



### **Bury MBC**

It is pleasing to report that, after considerable pressure by the Society, the bridge at Belle Vue Terrace which carries Bury FP105 has been repaired and is again open for pedestrian use. Bury MBC is also involved in the River Irwell bridge problem (see my Bolton report) as the borough boundary is mid-stream, although the section in Bury has been officially closed. However, this does not apply to the Bolton section which terminates in mid-air at the centre of the river. Bury tell me they cannot see this bridge being replaced in the foreseeable future. We continue to meet regularly with the Council.

### **Manchester City Council**

It is difficult to know what to say about the City Council. Most paths are urban in nature, signposting is carried out when we request it and there are few reported obstructions within the city boundary. Our main problem is in the Ringway area where there are several problems with paths surrounding the airport. We have recently met Council officers in an attempt to resolve most if not all those particular problems. However I sense that we have a long way to go before these are all resolved to our satisfaction. We will continue to monitor the situation.

### **Oldham MBC**

I said last year that I could see no prospect for an improvement in the way rights of way are dealt with by the authority *unless there is a fundamental change in the Council's approach*. I can recognise no such change.

### **Rochdale MBC**

As I understand it, the Council pursues a policy of dealing with ROW problems area by area. I have yet to see any positive results from this policy but I am ever hopeful.

### **Salford City Council**

Last year I said the appointment of a foot-path officer had resulted in some improvement. However he has now departed for

pastures new and more rewarding and short term contracts of employment are not the 'in' thing.

I am sorry to report there has been no positive move to re-open Swinton & Pendlebury 51 which remains illegally closed as it has been for the last 20 years. I have tried requiring the Council to enter this matter as a formal complaint under the Citizens Charter but have been told that, as there are other legal ways of resolving this type of problem, that course of action is not open to us. The Society has therefore now agreed to serve a Highways Act S56 notice on the Council. If no action is taken within a reasonable time, I will issue a summons in the Magistrates' Court.

### **Stockport MBC**

'Once upon a time' - so most fairy tales begin, there was a borough council who left the post of rights of way officer vacant for nearly six months as a result of which non statutory objectives perhaps benefited whilst Highways Act statutory duties were neglected. After receiving severe criticism, the council eventually made an 'in house' appointment but, regrettably, that person then needed to take six months leave of absence. During this period the Council failed to make temporary arrangements to ensure that rights of way work continued, resulting in a backlog of outstanding cases some going back to the early 1990s; thus the chaos increased. This apart, we feel the entire operation is bogged down by bureaucracy and re-organisation, the latter being a recipe for 'doing nothing'. From being near the top of our 'ladder of success' for several years, the Council is now in the mud of the ladders footings. One could well ask if this fairy tale has now become a pantomime.

### **Tameside MBC**

For the past few years I have been saying that Tameside are an authority with little concern for rights of way. I see no reason to change that opinion.

### **Trafford MBC**

My records show few reported problems in the borough and our meetings with them continue in a positive vein. It is difficult for me to say how the Council are reacting to complaints if I don't have any to lodge.

### **Wigan MBC**

In last year's report I said the Council continued to flounder at the bottom of my league table. All has changed and a new footpath officer and assistant have been appointed. The change has been dramatic, signposts appearing where there were none and paths

cleared of obstructions and re-surfaced. A very positive action programme has been devised and I am sure will be implemented. There are still delays in dealing with several applications to add ways to the definitive map, but again a programme has been set up to deal with these.

The review of the definitive map is being undertaken together with the adoption of a map for the former Wigan Borough area. All the signs are positive and I am delighted that my own MBC is at last taking positive action on a footpath network which has been sadly neglected over the years.

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## **DERBYSHIRE**

### **Derbyshire County Council**

I think I begin to detect an improvement here. At long last there is a positive response to complaints of obstruction and clearances of obstructions are taking place, albeit very slowly; perhaps we will see an acceleration in due course. However the situation with signposting does not appear to improve; I have been asking for many years. for signposting where paths leave metalled roads, particularly in North East Derbyshire. There are a lot of promises but only a very few new posts appear.

### **Derbyshire Dales DC**

Problems are few and those that I do report to the authority are dealt with reasonably promptly. Last year this authority was at the head of my league table and in 1997 it maintained that position.

### **North East Derbyshire DC**

Our inspectors in this area maintain a very careful watch on the rights-of-way network and report to me regularly on the overall condition. After lodging complaints with the

Council, response times are not as good as might be expected and, particularly in difficult cases, reminders have to be sent time after time before action is taken. The situation with ploughed out paths continues to cause me concern. Farmers in that area plough out paths year after year but the Council fails to take positive action against them, merely serving a notice to restore the line. Farmers treat the local authority and the Highways Act with the utmost contempt. Will North East Derbyshire DC ever learn!

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## **LANCASHIRE**

### **Lancashire County Council**

We continue to monitor the statistical information supplied to the Rights of Way liaison meeting which shows, amongst other items, the number of paths reported as obstructed and the number cleared. The number of paths obstructed in Pendle borough for instance is shown as 169 with a clearance rate of five every three months. It does not need a mathematician to deduce that it will be some eight years before all are cleared if no more complaints are received. Really not acceptable. In other respects the network handled by the County rather than the district councils is quite good and my complaints about the destruction of paths by quarrying are well received.

### **Blackburn BC**

Regular readers of my report will recall how I despair that Blackburn will ever recover from the malaise which infects the Council with regard to rights of way. Is there light at the end of the tunnel I ask myself? A new footpath officer has been appointed (one is insufficient for the number of outstanding problems) and she is aware of the size of the task before her, I think she will do a good job but will be short of staff and money. To some degree these can be overcome but so far the officer has lacked support from senior officers and, more importantly, from elected members. Until that situation is somehow reversed, I fear the excuses emanating from the council offices will continue.

Blackburn supports all other authorities in my league table by continuing to rest at the bottom. Last year I reported that our inspector, Ken West, had raised Blackburn's poor performance with the Ombudsman who expressed concern but accepted the borough's excuse that they have a massive problem. They now find a new excuse for doing little or nothing, namely that 'preparation for the change to unitary authority status has put a strain on our resources'.

I have to give Blackburn credit for one thing, and only one thing, they never run short of new excuses for doing nothing.

### **Chorley BC**

Little to say about this authority. Its area of footpath responsibility is small and every complaint, which to be fair are very few, is dealt with promptly and efficiently. Chorley figures around the top of my league table.

### **Rosendale BC**

I am short of a footpath inspector for Bacup, Haslingden & Whitworth and so am unable to put the pressure on the local authority that I would wish. As always I am looking for a volunteer to cover that area.

I am having an ongoing battle with the Council with regard to paths which were quarried away at Britannia & Facit quarries in Whitworth. This destruction was carried out many years ago but no one thought to have the paths officially diverted or closed. I cannot get across to the Council that this situation is illegal. They procrastinate - a skill at which they are adept and I must continue to apply pressure at every possible level, as frequently as possible.

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## **WEST YORKSHIRE**

### **Calderdale BC**

I have said in previous years this authority has a massive problem. They have admitted the rights of way department is underfunded to the tune of £65k and understaffed by some three persons. To the best of my knowledge there have been no more funds and no more staff. Therefore the situation remains static with rights of way remaining blocked and the condition of the definitive map in total disarray.

Will it improve next year? I doubt it, for there is a distinct lack of enthusiasm on the part of both officers and elected members.

### **Kirklees BC**

This authority continues to climb up my league table. More rights of way officers have been appointed and additional funds have been made available. A rights of way forum is scheduled to meet for the first time early in the new year and our inspector tells me that co-operation with officers of the authority is first class.

The definitive map is badly in need of review and I am hopeful this will be dealt with in the not too distant future.

## STAFFORDSHIRE

I have to say that I am disappointed with the rights of way situation in the county. The authority is suffering, as is Cheshire and Lancashire, from local government re-organisation which has brought about a very real fall in their income and the rights of way unit would appear to be suffering more than most, although I am sure this would be denied. Matters have not been helped by the long absence due to ill health of the rights of way officer. I propose therefore to make no further comment on this authority at this time, we will see how the situation develops in the new year. The Council has declined to provide us with up to date copies of the definitive map, so we must continue with those we have which are hopelessly out of date. Confusion results which is no help to the Society or the County.

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## SOME OTHER THOUGHTS.....

### Havannah Lane, Congleton

The saga of Havannah Lane, continues, members will recall that this way was blocked off by a palisade fence on the grounds that it is not public. We have provided quite a substantial amount of evidence to the Clerk to the Town Council but there is what we consider to be unacceptable delay in the claim being sent to the County. We are expecting a claim to be lodged in the immediate future.

### The Silk Road, Macclesfield (A523)

This relief road, as it is termed, has now been open for several years, but there is little 'relief' for footpath users. The footpath network in and around Bollington was never correctly dealt with legally from the start and I have been seeking to have that corrected. I have now been in correspondence with the Highways Agency since the 5th November 1993 and as we go to press, some four years and ten letters later, there is little progress to report.

In their latest letter, dated 23rd December '97, I am told that the matter has now been referred to the Lands Section. I get the feeling they are kicking the ball about in the hope that it will in time get lost and we will forget about it .... I can tell them there is no chance that will happen!

## Questions to the Secretary of State

Three issues have been causing me concern for some time now and so, in early October '97, I posed the following questions to the Department of the Environment at Bristol.

- I asked them to rule on how boundary changes which result in certain paths being moved from one authority to another, should be dealt with. Should the parish name and the path number change, and if so how should that be legally brought about and how should the definitive map be amended.
- My second question related to Road Traffic Regulation orders, temporary closure of rights of way; I have been unhappy for a long time at the way local authorities deal with these issues. Tameside, for instance, admit they have no system to ensure that, after an initial six months order, they apply to the Secretary of State for a further period. Macclesfield just don't seem to bother about temporary closure orders being renewed and when I ask them the question they just don't reply.
- My third question referred to a practice which appears to be becoming more prevalent; when witness statements have been gathered for an application to add a way to the definitive map, those opposing the order contact our witnesses and say '*are you sure you are prepared to stand up in court to support your statement*'. Most people are reluctant to become involved in anything connected with a courtroom and, not knowing that an inquiry is not the same as a court hearing, say no and are then asked to sign away their statement, (to page 15 >

## ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY

DEREK SEDDON

**S**hould we dabble in politics? A natural revulsion against allowing the Society to become involved in that sometimes unsavoury world may have to be reconsidered in the light of the problems with which political decisions can confront us. One item which perhaps made the New Labour manifesto attractive to members was their pledge of granting all citizens a greater freedom to roam in open country.

Last October the RA held a rally in Hope (a prophetic venue) with the major purpose of reminding the new government of its pre-election promises. The Society, represented by Leslie and Lorna Meadowcroft, were there with a stand to let people know what we are doing and to lend our support. Unfortunately, according to *The Times*, the expectations of thousands of walkers count for little against the massed ranks of the landowners who are bringing pressure on the government to forget its obligations or at least delay them. Important principles are at stake here and some hard lobbying will be needed.

A hangover from the previous administration which the present one has done nothing to curtail is the continuing privatisation of Forestry Commission land. Outdoor organisations foresaw that this would result in restrictions of the right to walk in the forests and this is now coming to pass. It's all in the name of achieving income targets set by the Tories.

Yet, following Tory precedent, the government is anxious to hand out large sums of money to developers wishing to erect wind-farms in open country. Subsidies for this ill conceived project are available and about to

be taken up for the erection of large numbers of unsightly turbines on hills in our area. As the national parks are barred to them, the developers have selected the unprotected hills in the South Pennines for special attention. 29 contracts are on offer for the hills above Scammonden, Darwen, Rochdale, Bacup, Hebden Bridge and Blackstone Edge in addition to those already operating on Ovenden Moor near Halifax and Cliviger near Burnley. Not single turbines but squads even companies of them - seven near Stoodley Pike, 21 on Great Hill, Rochdale, 44 on Flaith Hill near Hebden Bridge. Not picture postcard windmills but giant industrial installations, each the height of a 20 storey building set in a concrete base the size of a swimming pool and serviced by miles of new roads. Sorry to go on about it, but the idea fair curdles the blood. This is a system which sounds wonderfully green but has been shown to be so inefficient that it will be unable to make a significant contribution to the nation's energy unless (God forbid) our entire hill country was covered with its eyesores. The government has to offer a subsidy or nobody would take it on. The committee views the prospect with concern and has voted to join other outdoor organisations in opposing all such proposals within our area when they come in.

The four-wheel drive menace to footpaths is still around although I feel it has been less of a problem this year (I have seen damage only on the Roych path above Edale) and hope that changing fashion among the choice of trendy vehicle will be the best safeguard for our tracks in the future. An example of the slowness of legislation to combat this is the continuing saga of the path up Stable Clough in Longdendale and the levelling of a car park on the moorland by a businessman to make it accessible by Land Rover for shooting parties. The culprit was given detailed instructions by the Peak Park PB to reinstate the path and banks but has failed to do so. He has been taken to court twice but pleaded not guilty and will go for jury trial in March, three years after the original offence. Meanwhile the path remains in its ruined condition. (concluded on page 15 >



◊ In July the long awaited report of the National Park Committee was published. This Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Arthur Hobhouse are to be congratulated on the thorough manner in which they have faced up to the manifold problems, and for the clear and lucid presentation of their findings. It is impossible to deal fully with all the recommendations contained in this Report but it is recommended that twelve National Parks should be established in three instalments -

**First instalment**

The Lake District  
North Wales  
The Peak District  
Dartmoor

**Second instalment**

The Yorkshire Dales  
The Pembrokeshire Coast  
Exmoor  
The South Downs

**Third instalment**

The Roman Wall  
The North York Moors  
Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains  
The Broads

July too, saw the publication of the Wildlife Conservation Committee's Report. Realising that the conservation of wild life within National Parks could best be studied as part of a wider scheme for Nature Conservation as a whole, this special committee was set up in August 1945 under the Chairmanship of Dr JS Huxley, FRS.

The Special Committee's report on Access and Footpaths was published in September. One of the last acts performed as Secretary of this Society by Mr Boulger was his drafting of a Memorandum on Footpath Law and his recommendations for its revision. It is gratifying that the whole of Mr Boulger's recommendations were accepted and are embodied in this Report. Its recommendations include -

A complete survey of all rights of way should be put in hand forthwith; county councils and county borough councils should be the statutory authorities for making the Survey.

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*General secretary's report (continued from page 13)*

which they often do. I have asked the department if such an approach to witnesses is acceptable to the Secretary of State or his inspectors. Unfortunately, despite a reminder I have still not had a reply except to say that it is being dealt with by the Policy Branch.

**My thanks...**

once again to all who have helped me during the year, not forgetting the inspectors who provide me with the ammunition I need to try to keep local authorities on their toes. ◻

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*Environment secretary's report (continued from page 14)*

In Greater Manchester, a large proposed development in Carrington will cause some interference with footpaths but a development at Davenport Green (Hale) has made ample provision for footpath protection and it is good to be able to record our approval of the local authority's endeavours. ◻

## MATTERS FROM THE MINUTES

*NB No meetings of Council were held in January or August*

### **February**

The planning application for Manchester Airport's second runway has been granted. The Secretary is invited to attend a site meeting with the Airport Authority, City Council and other amenity bodies with a view to agreeing a diversion route for Ringway FP2; this is to allow further development to take place.

Meetings with Cheshire CC & Bolton MBC. The Chairman attends a Trans Pennine Trail advisory committee meeting.

The diversions at Underbank and Dodge Hill in Stockport have yet to be signed.

### **March**

AGM with 30 members present. Reported that the Society had raised the question at the National Trust's AGM about the resiting of the Dovedale path bridge nearer the stepping stones.

Leslie Meadowcroft gives his last address as Chairman and relinquishes the post after 25 years in office paying tribute to the co-operation received from other officers.

### **April**

The new Chairman pays tribute to Leslie Meadowcroft for his exceptionally long term as Chairman and to Mrs Meadowcroft for her support; members wholeheartedly supported this tribute.

Asked that consideration be given to providing footpath inspectors with information about decisions taken by the COSA unit on closures and diversions. Whilst recognising the problems this may cause, it is

disconcerting for footpath inspectors to hear of diversions/closures in their area and to be questioned about the decisions by walkers and locals when the inspectors were unaware of the problems. Society exhibits at the Greater Manchester Police open day. Officers visit the DoE at Bristol. 20 obstructed and 40 cleared paths.

### **May**

29th May is the date of the celebration proposed to mark the centenary of the Snake Path by recreating the original walk. The party of walkers left Hope via Roman Road and the Snake Path to Hayfield. On the Saturday a hired coach takes members to the Snake Path for a gentle amble and dedication of a new signpost.

Help is needed from users of Leek FP8 in Staffordshire which has an extinguishment order on it as the landowner claims it should not be on the definitive map; any member having evidence of walking this path please make contact.

The PPPB orders those responsible for the horrendous state of the path at Stable Clough to reinstate it (watch this space). The officers meet Stafford CC. 16 obstructed and 19 cleared paths.

### **June**

The Executive Committee recommends the Society should affiliate to the RA. The Snake path centenary celebrations made a net profit of £89.95p with walkers enjoying perfect summer weather.

The Secretary concerned about North East Derbyshire DC's manner of dealing with complaints about reinstating persistently ploughed footpaths in their area. 23 obstructed and 32 cleared paths.

### **July**

Blackburn BC found by the Ombudsman to be failing in their duty when the Society's footpath inspector for Blackburn, Ken West, took his case to her.

Meeting with Lancashire CC.

Five obstructed and three cleared paths.

## September

The Secretary reports that the search for suitable accommodation for the Society's offices continues; the sub-committee is looking for a building which has been or could be modernised with limited demand on finance and other resources.

The policy document on closures and creations has not been reviewed since 1990 and the opportunity is now being taken to make appropriate amendments.

We win the case against open cast mining at Poynton - nine footpaths saved.

Meetings with Cheshire CC & Bolton MBC. Derbyshire CC seeks help with rights of way survey. 20 obstructed and 26 cleared paths.

## October

The Secretary voices his concern about applications to add footpaths to the definitive map. A landowner opposing our claim had 'nobbled' a number of the Society's witnesses and persuaded them to sign away their evidence of use form, having asked them if they really wished to 'stand up in Court and give evidence'.

The Environment Officer reports the man responsible for the damage to the path at Stable Clough (see May) appeared in court with a barrister, pleaded not guilty asking for a jury trial which will take place between January and March; meanwhile the path is completely impassable.

Meetings with Stockport and Trafford MBCs. Three signposts erected; four obstructed and 16 paths cleared.

## November

A 40% cut in the rights of way budget for Cheshire was said to be due to local government reorganisation. The RA North & East Cheshire Area are mounting a campaign against these cuts which the Society will support.

Cheshire CC have taken three farmers to court for persistently ploughing up and non-reinstatement of paths. The sad fact is that, in all three cases, magistrates found the farmers guilty but refused to award costs to the Council.

Derek Seddon, the Environment Officer, advised that contracts had been let for a number of windfarm sites, several affecting the visual aspect of the Pennine Way; agreed the Society to lodge an objection. New signpost officer appointed.

Meeting with Wigan MBC.

38 obstructed paths and 13 cleared paths.

## December

Concern expressed re Cheshire magistrates' nil penalties on farmers convicted of obstruction.

Appointment of Bill Johnson as the Society's new signpost supervisor confirmed.

Attention drawn to the reduced attendances at recent Executive meetings.

New procedures to be introduced to inform our inspectors of relevant path consultations. 45 obstructed and nine cleared paths. □



## DONATION FORM

From:

Name .....

Address .....

..... Tel No. ....

*I/we wish to make the enclosed donation to the following fund -*

Development  Defence  Signpost  General  Covenant forms needed

Please return with your donation to Keith Wykes, Honorary Treasurer,



## COURTS & INQUIRIES

ADRIAN LITTLETON

**7**he long anticipated planning permission for Manchester Airport's Second Runway was granted; fortunately with safeguards for walkers' interests for which the Society, in close collaboration with the RA and the Alderley Edge, Wilmslow & District FP Society, had campaigned and negotiated.

East Staffordshire BC sought to put kinks into bridleways Dunstall 6 and Barton-under-Needwood 36. The issue was dealt with via a hearing, an informal version of an inquiry. One kink replaced open vistas with restricted views; the other kink required the ability to lengthen one leg by 100m when traversing a cross slope. Efficient team work with our local agent, Les Fletcher, and the local RA preserved the existing routes.

Comparable teamwork - encompassing your President, Harry Hadfield of East Cheshire RA and Gloria Gaffney of the GM Pedestrians' Association - failed to preserve the lines of Lyme Handley 11 and 13 where they pass through Green Farm, near Lyme Park. The tea room near the old routes is no more but Leslie Meadowcroft condemned a diversion which would take him out of sight of a place where he had often been much refreshed. Gloria urged the inspector to heed the historical aura of the old routes and Harry Hadfield scorned the light limestone surface of the diversion route as a poor substitute for the gritstone of the old paths. Spurning all this nostalgia, the inspector decreed the diversion was not substantially less convenient to walkers and confirmed the orders.

Planning permission was refused for open cast mining at Poynton, which would have devastated the local footpath network.

In the pubs where local authorities' solicitors play one-upmanship, the gizmo of 1997 has been 'if you want to get rid of a footpath easily, grant planning permission for gardens to be created or extended over it; make an order under the Town & Country Planning Act and thus escape the inconveniences of the Highways Act'. We fought Rochdale's use of this gizmo at Whitewell Close, Belfield. The Inspector decided most users of the path would be local resident and as none of them opposed the order, users would seemingly suffer little inconvenience by closing the path; he confirmed the order.

The absence of local opposition to closure did not inhibit another inspector. Planning permission had been granted for (i) houses to be built adjacent to an 82m section of Bowdon 16, and (ii) change of use of that section from footpath to domestic garden. A closure order was made under the Town & Country Planning Act. Walkers would have to travel about 165 metres along estate roads. The Society objected - in collaboration with the Open Spaces Society, RA and the Greater Manchester Pedestrians' Association. The inspector decided that the advantage to the public of retaining the 82m of Bowdon 16 outweighed the potential reduction in security arising to four adjacent owners if that section was left open. He refused to confirm the order.

I end this report with an urgent plea for active reinforcement of the Society's courts and inquiries functions. On 31 December 1997 - seduced by such rival attractions as Aegean islands and New England nature reserves - I demote myself to consultant status, which means that I shall handle a minority rather than a majority of the Society's advocacy tasks.

If you, dear reader, have advocacy experience, not necessarily as a lawyer - teachers, planning officers and other professionals are very good at it too! Or you have a friend who has - and you and/or the friend would like to represent the Society at inquiries, etc; please contact Norman Edwards, Derek Taylor or myself. The work will take you into places which you never knew existed - many will have views even more delightful than those of Dunstall 6. □

# SIGNPOST REPORT

BILL JOHNSON

I was appointed in November 1997; therefore almost all the work I list below was carried out by a loyal band who have been 'holding the fort'.

There are plenty of tasks to undertake, dealing with the ravages of time, the weird but not wonderful acts of vandalism and the pleasure of planting dedicated signs. I am indebted to colleagues for their help and am sure I will benefit from the traditional help from affiliated clubs, wardens and rangers, whose assistance is invaluable.

In addition to the work listed in the next column, several signs have been repainted as part of an ongoing maintenance programme.

## New signs erected

**SP259** Prince's Wood, Poynton (GR935843)  
Donated by High Peak Group RSPB imo Andrew Shaw.

**SP260** Anglezarke Moor (GR638165)  
Imo Bill Foster, late of North West Water.

**SP 261** on the Snake Path  
To recognise the centenary of its opening.

**SP262** Outseats (GR231835)  
Donated by Mrs Celia M Jackson (daughter) imo Mrs Evelyn Evison, a footpath inspector for the society for many years.

## Work in progress

**SP263** Long Edge Plantation (intended location - GR028782)  
Donated by Barney & Margaret Brown.

**SP264** Litton (intended location GR168748)  
Donated by Mrs Jennifer C Hawley imo Marjory Edwards.

**SP265** (location to be decided)  
Donated by Stockport Field Club to commemorate their centenary.

## Repairs

**SP183** Staley Brushes (GR991992)  
Sign with amended destination board fixed (imo Beatrice Rowlands).

**SP204** Mellor Church (GR98228887)  
Replacement cast plate fixed (imo Frank Head).

**Finger Post 8** Lantern Pike (GR025889)  
Six Arm post removed for repairs.

## Repairs & maintenance

**SP211** Nether Alderley (GR84097621)  
Missing arm presumed hit by passing farm vehicle; now with Countryside Officer at Wilmslow (imo four late members of Altrincham Rambling Club).

**SP64** Snake Pass (GR055884)  
Missing - waterworks notice.

**SP129** Darwen Road (GR703179)  
Post sawn off and plate missing; new cast plate and post delivered to Jumbles Reservoir for erection by West Pennine Rangers.

# Harold Wild

## ... a tribute

*edited by John Harrop from an article by  
Harold's daughter*

**A**ny voluntary organisation depends on the effectiveness of its members in contributing whatever is needed to sustain itself and this Society is no exception. Members' subscriptions are vital but so are the often unsung efforts made by those members who work defending our rights of way, opposing footpath closures and diversions, maintaining and updating maps, checking illegal obstructions, walking the paths, checking complaints by hikers and the host of other things that are necessary to maintain our legal right to access to the countryside.

If there is one person who towers above the many in maintaining these legal rights, there is little doubt that would be Harold Wild.

Harold Ernest Wild was born in Gorton, Manchester on the 24th January 1896, the son of Matthew and Emily Wild. Sadly, it soon became apparent to the parents that young Harold had a disability, probably a dislocated hip, something that could be rectified so easily nowadays but this was 1896 and the advances made in this field of medicine were still in their infancy. His parents tried so very hard to find a cure for their young son but without success.

They were told of a renowned bonesetter, William Rae of Blantyre in Scotland. Not an easy journey in those days but they were determined to do whatever they could for their son and to Scotland they took him. What treatment William Rae gave is not known but he did recommend that Harold should use his lame leg as much as possible in walking or cycling. It could be considered

clinical advice or prophetic for, despite his disability, Harold walked thousands of miles during his active life; this he put to good use, not only for his own pleasure but for those of us who love nature and the open countryside.

He grew up a modest man, of a peaceable nature, integrity and absolute determination. During the First World War he declared himself a conscientious objector, believing that no man should be called upon to kill his fellow men. He spent a night in the cells because of his beliefs, really unnecessary as his disability would have prevented his being conscripted. He started his walking days early, probably on Sunday School rambles, possibly with the No Conscription Fellowship (NCF).

He met his love, Dorothy Broome, about 1912 when they attended the same Wesleyan Chapel but only later did they become close friends. She became his wife in 1930 and was his lifelong support. She also was a lover of the countryside as were his two daughters, Pat and Dorothy. Pat recalls the time when, but an infant, she was carried by Harold on his back in a 'kiddy carrier'. He jogged along whilst Pat enjoyed the event but from an acute angle because of his disability.

He joined the Peak District & Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society in its early days and served as footpaths supervisor from 1921 until 1951. His doggedness in pursuing the right to pass legally over any path or piece of ground never failed in all those years. Dorothy recalls an incident in 1929 when walking from Hayfield to Glossop over Kinder via the Snake road and Doctor's Gate. After lengthy discussion and research the solicitors of the landowner, Lord Howard, had conceded that a right of way existed along their route. But complaints had been received that the gate at Mossy Lea Farm was still closed and Harold decided to look into this. Sure enough on reaching the gate they found it locked when, at the same time, an irate farmer appeared tearing down the hill side towards the gate. Harold seeing this, and despite his disability, also made a dash and was over the gate before the farmer reached it. A shouting argument ensued

which lasted for about a quarter of an hour, each rapping the top of the gate with his stick to emphasise his point. Needless to say Harold got the better of the argument and the farmer unlocked the gate to allow access. As they walked away Harold turned to Dorothy and apologised - 'I'm sorry I forgot you were there'. As Dorothy, who had a great sense of humour, said in later years ... 'Well, what else could you expect from a footpath fanatic?'

He continued checking footpaths and rights of way, searching tithe maps and records as far back as 200 or more years to establish a right and always within the law. His only transport was public transport or on foot. He explored the Peak District from one extreme of to the other.

He recorded meticulously every event and incident during his inspections making drawings of the landscape to illustrate a point. He recorded the people he met, stiles or bridges crossed, variations from the normal routes and marking his routes by the signs 'A' and 'B'. His writings and drawings were done in pen and ink for permanence - there were no ball pens in those days. On returning home he would stretch out his maps on the floor to check and record all that he had done that day.

The books of his recordings of the events are now in the Society's archives and are treasured both for the invaluable information they contain and as would be rare and historical first editions.

His determination to keep within the law caused him to object to the Kinder trespass. This event did draw attention to a wide-

spread desire for access to the countryside, but Harold believed much of the event was counter productive, antagonising many landowners, and possibly setting much of the potential cooperation back many years. After all, the footpath from Hayfield over Kinder to the Snake Inn had existed for some 35 years and this had resulted from cooperation and persuasion by the Footpaths Society. The fifty years anniversary of the opening of this path was celebrated in 1947 and Harold arranged a tea party in Hayfield with well known speakers attending.

He continued in this office in addition to being Secretary from 1949 to 1951. During that time he was known and respected by many well known figures of the rambling fraternity. He stood on equal terms with early members of the Society, for example Colonel HT Crook an early pioneer and President from 1914 to 1934. He was a good friend of the remarkable GHB Ward who was a leading light in the Sheffield Clarion Ramblers and published the annual Sheffield Clarion Handbook. His friendships and acquaintances formed over the years were so many and could not possibly be recorded in this brief article.

For many years afterwards, Harold served as vice president and elder statesman. He died on the 6th July 1979 at the age of 83, much loved and respected by all who knew him. Dorothy continued to attend many of our annual dinners and passed away on the 27th March 1994 having just celebrated her 'centenary'.

Very few Harold Wilds pass this way but 'There were giants in those days'. □

## THE SOCIETY'S SLIDE LECTURE

The President or Secretary would be pleased to present the Society's slide lecture to any interested organisation.

*Please contact either of them for further details*

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

ERNIE SUTTON

I do wish that I could begin my report in a different tone to that which I have had to employ in my previous reports as Membership Secretary. However, I appreciate that the passing of time makes inroads into our membership figures, particularly as far as our older friends are concerned.

Annual non-renewals are on a par with 1996, last year losing 28 single and 18 joint members (nine pairs). Ten year membership has dropped by 14, four singles and 10 joint (five pairs). The annual losses have been balanced by 26 single and 16 joint new members, but I have received only one 10 year single renewal and one 10 year joint.

The five year membership has continued to grow and we now have a 19 singles and 30 joint members; this is very pleasing and a further improvement is that our junior members have increased from two to four.

We have gained two new affiliated societies, but even so, our figures are down again by two. I hope that, even now, these non payers may realise their omission and rectify; changes of officials on the part of our affiliates often cause an oversight in renewal.

A most pleasing area is the very good response from those members who are taxpayers and who have shown their willingness to help the society by covenanting their subscriptions. As might be expected this has increased our administrative workload and I am very conscious that we have been unable to finalise the paperwork which needs to be processed. May I therefore apologise to those members concerned and assure them we hope to rectify this in the near future. To any other members who may be interested in covenanting their subscriptions and have not yet done so, may I suggest that you place a 'X' in the box at the bottom of the membership renewal form.

In conclusion, but most importantly, my sincere thanks to the individual members and affiliated societies for their most generous and welcome contributions to our funds

*The membership year terminates at the annual general meeting, but for statistical purposes membership figures are shown as at 31 December*

| <i>membership</i>       | <i>1995</i> | <i>1996</i> | <i>1997</i> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Annual                  | 429         | 391         | 360         |
| Ten year                | 612         | 616         | 607         |
| Five year               | –           | 18          | 49          |
| Honorary Life           | 13          | 13          | 13          |
| Juniors                 | 2           | 2           | 4           |
| <b>Total membership</b> | <b>1056</b> | <b>1040</b> | <b>1033</b> |
| Affiliated societies    | 94          | 91          | 89          |

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith Wykes

1997

The Society's £117,634 Funds represent a substantial 18% increase year on year. (£99,604; 1996)

The Income and Expenditure Account surplus, transferred to *General Funds*, contributed £6,997 (£5,841; 1996 for comparative purposes). These increases represent considerable achievement; however it should be noted that Subscription Income alone (£3979: £3956; 1996) is insufficient to cover Expenditure. (£5,354: £5,997; 1996) and the Society would be in deficit without Investment Income.

In this context it is pleasing to report a 17% increase in Investment Income (£7,805: £6,691; 1996) which would cover any deficit which might otherwise arise.

Your response to 1996's plea to continue to support the *Development Fund* resulted in a £3,410 net increase in funds - so achieving a year-end balance of £45,928.

The Society is now financially well poised to acquire premises.

The *Signpost Fund* year-end balance of £1,917 reflects a net increase of £748 year on year; contributing to this satisfactory outturn were Donations received (£686); Invoiced work (£865) minus Direct (£453) & Officers Expenditure (£293); and a shovehole was acquired during the year who's cost has been written off to *Signpost Fund* Expenditure!

Please continue to support the *Development & Signpost Funds*.

If you can, please consider making the *Defence Fund* your No 1 1998 donations priority; I would prefer to maintain a *Defence Fund* balance @ around 10% of Funds (i.e. circa. £11,763) and its £4,395 current balance is much below this target; please enable the Society to become more proactive (in a legal sense perhaps) via the *Defence Fund* and assist the Secretary in making life as difficult as possible for those who have no concern whatsoever for Rights of Way.

All *Funds* have benefited from the following income sources:- Individual Bequests & Donations (£3,988); Covenanted Donations (£176); Expenses Claims made but the proceeds not vired (Donated) to the Society (£249); *Give as you Earn (G.A.Y.E)* Donations (£142).

Grateful thanks are accorded to all these "givers".

Increases in Investment Values (£4,014) have also been taken to Reserves (i.e. *Funds*).

As in 1996, Taxpayers should note that *Subscription Membership & Donations* may be Covenanted to the Society in which case the Society may claim a 30% addition to your payment from the Inland Revenue - at no cost to yourself. Please indicate on *Membership Renewal Form* if you would consider covenanting *Subscription Membership and Donations*.

It is my intention to contact those Members who have expressed interest in Covenanted but who have yet heard from me, before the 5th April 1998 Tax year -end.

During the year the Society acquired 850 Woolwich plc Ordinary shares free of issue charges; the £1700 estimated acquisition value crystallised in the event @ \$2,452, and this Equity

carried a Market value of £2,722 at the year-end; the £2,452 acquisition value was released from the *Matured Investment & Revaluation Reserve to General Funds*.

The year-end *General Fund balance* (i.e. the Society's Reserves for the General purposes use) was £55,560 and *Memorial Funds* remained @ the 1996 level of £447.

#### INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - NOTES.

- **Income** has risen marginally (£12,351: 1996, £11,963)
- **Subscription Income** is static (£3,979; £3956; 1996)  
Ten and Five year members may see that one tenth and one fifth respectively of their subscription have been treated as income in these accounts.
- **Donations - General** do not feature in the I & E Account for 1997 which reflects an accounting policy change.
- **Interest receivable** in January 1998, on the Leeds & Holbeck B.S. Charity Account and the Skipton B.S. Matured Instant Access Account, is accrued to the 31st December 1997 year end in the interest of providing true, fair and accurate accounts.
- **Other Income** records a slight decrease in **Affiliates Service Charge** Income (£90: £101; 1996) and a substantial reduction in **Annual Report advert fees** (£410: £596; 1996); **Sundry Income** comprises **Recovered Expenses** £15; **Poster Sales** £4; **Badges** £20; **1994 Centenary Book Sales** £20; **Annual Report Sales** £8.
- **Expenditure** is recorded as incurred plus accruals & in total terms is marginally reduced @ £5,354; £5597 in 1996
- **Sundry Expenditure** comprises **Public Relations & Advertising** £17; **Annual Dinner** (net) £8. **Sundry** £15.

#### DONATION FORM

FROM:

Name.....

Address.....

..... Tel No.....

*I/we wish to make the enclosed donation to the following fund:-*

DEFENCE DEVELOPMENT SIGNPOST GENERAL

COVENANT FORM REQUIRED

Please return with your donation to The Honorary Treasurer, Peak & Northern Footpaths Society, 1 Nelson Street, Hazel Grove, Stockport. SK7 4LR or hand to any Officer

**Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1997**

|   | 1997          | 1996          |
|---|---------------|---------------|
|   | £             | £             |
| <b>ASSETS</b>   |               |               |
| <b>Investments</b>  |               |               |
| <b>Long Term - at market value</b>  |               |               |
| Government Stock  | 46,061.       | 42,316        |
| UK Equities - Woolwich plc  | 2,722         | -----         |
|   | <u>48,783</u> | <u>42,316</u> |
| <b>Medium Term</b>  |               |               |
| Woolwich B.S. Three year 8.5% Fixed Rate Bond<br>(Matured 29 December 1997) | -----         | 10,000        |
| <b>Short Term</b>   |               |               |
| Cafcash Deposit Fund  | 35,798        | 26,839        |
| Hampshire Trust 12 month Deposit Account                                    | 24,143        | 22,465        |
| Royal Bank of Scotland : Bus. High Interest                                 | 3,208         | 4,019         |
| : Current   | 150           | 17            |
| Leeds & Holbeck B.S. Charity Account  | 527           | 505           |
| Skipton B.S. Matured Instant Access Account                                 | 500           | 500           |
| Cash & Postage's floats   | 85            | 53            |
|   | -----         | -----         |
|   | 64,231        | 54,398        |
|   | -----         | -----         |
| Badge stock on Hand   | 155           | 177           |
| Debtors   | 10,999        | 23            |
| -1998 Income accrued to 1997  | 566           | 22            |
|   | -----         | -----         |
|   | 124,734       | 106,936       |
|   | <u>-----</u>  | <u>-----</u>  |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>  |               |               |
| Funds of the Society  | 117,634       | 99,604        |
| Ten year membership suspense  | 5,965         | 6,847         |
| Five year membership suspense   | 621           | 246           |
| Advance Subscriptions 1998  | -             | 5             |
|   | -----         | -----         |
|   | 124,220       | 106,702       |
|   | <u>-----</u>  | <u>-----</u>  |
| <b>CREDITORS</b>  |               |               |
| - Development Fund Deposited Loan Covenants                                 | 285           | 195           |
| - Five year membership Deposited Loan Covenants                             | 140           | 26            |
| - Inland Revenue & Expense Claimants  | 89            | 13            |
|   | -----         | -----         |
|   | 514           | 234           |
|   | <u>-----</u>  | <u>-----</u>  |
|   | 124,734       | 106,936       |
|   | <u>-----</u>  | <u>-----</u>  |

Signed : K.D.Wykes : Hon, Treasurer : 6th March 1997



| INCOME                           | 1997          | 1996          | EXPENDITURE              | 1997          | 1996          |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                  | £             | £             |                          | £             | £             |
| Subscriptions                    |               |               | Travel                   | 1,131         | 1,005         |
| Ordinary                         | 840           | 848           | Postage's                | 860           | 762           |
| Joint                            | 752           | 865           | Annual Report (1996 net) | 713           | 886           |
| 10yr Suspense Transfers          | 1,300         | 1,306         | Telephones               | 445           | 388           |
| 5yr Suspense Transfers           | 207           | 68            | Printing & Stationary    | 299           | 351           |
| Junior                           | 8             | 3             | Computer consumables     | 158           | 247           |
| Affiliations                     | 872           | 866           | Photocopying             | 212           | 280           |
|                                  |               |               | Office equipment         |               |               |
|                                  |               |               | Maintenance              | 61            | 215           |
|                                  |               |               | COSA Unit expenses       | --            | 2             |
|                                  | -----         | -----         |                          | -----         | -----         |
| Total Subscriptions              | 3,979         | 3,956         |                          | 3,879         | 4,136         |
|                                  | -----         | -----         |                          | -----         | -----         |
| Donations - General              | --            | 525           | Room Hire:-              |               |               |
|                                  | -----         | -----         | COSA Unit (inc. hosp)    | 613           | 565           |
|                                  |               |               | Secretariat              | 394           | 372           |
| Investment Income :-             |               |               | Meetings                 | 260           | 244           |
| Deposit accounts & terms:        |               |               |                          | -----         | -----         |
| Long                             | 2,845         | 2,607         |                          | 1,267         | 1,181         |
| Medium                           | 843           | 1,255         |                          | -----         | -----         |
| Short                            | 4,117         | 2,829         | Subscriptions +          |               |               |
|                                  | -----         | -----         | Donations                | 115           | 70            |
| Total Investment Income          | 7,805         | 6,691         | Map purchases            | 23            | 97            |
|                                  | -----         | -----         | Insurance's              | 30            | 30            |
|                                  |               |               | Sundries                 | 40            | 83            |
| Other Income :-                  |               |               |                          | -----         | -----         |
| Affiliates Service Charge        | 90            | 101           |                          | 208           | 280           |
| Annual Report advert fees        | 410           | 596           |                          |               |               |
| Sundry                           | 67            | 94            |                          |               |               |
|                                  | -----         | -----         | Total Expenditure        | 5,354         | 5,597         |
| Total other income               | 567           | 791           | Transferred to           |               |               |
|                                  |               |               | Gen. Funds               | 6,997         | 6,366         |
|                                  |               |               |                          | -----         | -----         |
| <b>Total income for the year</b> | <b>12,351</b> | <b>11,963</b> |                          | <b>12,351</b> | <b>11,963</b> |

#### EXAMINERS REPORT

I have had access to the books and documents concerning the Finances of the Society and consider that the Statement and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 1997 prepared by the Treasurer, presents a true and fair view of the accounts as at that date.

Signed: Ron McKnight

Hazel Grove

March 1998

# AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Alderley Edge, Wilmslow & District Footpaths Society   | 32 Halcyon Rambling Club                                   | 63 Ramblers' Association: Bolton Group              |
| 2 Altrincham & District Rambling Club                    | 33 Hanliensian Rambling Club                               | 64 Ramblers' Association: Congleton Group           |
| 3 Barlborough Parish Council                             | 34 Hayfield Civic Trust                                    | 65 Ramblers' Association: East Cheshire Area        |
| 4 Barnsley Mountaineering Club                           | 35 Hazel Grove District Scout Council                      | 66 Ramblers' Association: Manchester Area           |
| 5 Blackbrook Conservation Society                        | 36 HF - Bolton Group                                       | 67 Ramblers' Association: North & Mid Cheshire Area |
| 6 Brookdale Ramblers                                     | 37 HF - Bury Group   | 68 Ramblers' Association: Oldham Group              |
| 7 Buxton Field Club                                      | 38 HF - Manchester Group                                   | 69 Ramblers' Association: Sheffield Group           |
| 8 Buxton Rambling Club                                   | 39 HF - Nottingham Group                                   | 70 Ramblers' Association: SYNED Area                |
| 9 CAE  | 40 HF - Warrington Rambling Club                           | 71 Ramblers' Association: Stockport Group           |
| 10 CHA - Bolton  | 41 ITT Rambling Club                                       | 72 RSPB - High Peak Group                           |
| 11 CHA - Bury & District                                 | 42 Knutsford Civic Society                                 | 73 Rucksack Club                                    |
| 12 CHA - Eccles  | 43 Leek Footpath Rambling Club                             | 74 Sheffield Clarion Ramblers                       |
| 13 CHA - Manchester Rambling Club                        | 44 Littleborough Civic Trust                               | 75 Sheffield Co-op Party Rambling Club              |
| 14 CHA - Mansfield                                       | 45 Longdendale & Glossopdale Footpath Preservation Society | 76 Shirland & Higham Parish Council                 |
| 15 CHA - Nottingham Rambling Club                        | 46 Macclesfield Rambling Club                              | 77 St Catherine's Rambling Club                     |
| 16 CHA - Oldham & District Rambling Club                 | 47 Macclesfield & District Field Club                      | 78 Stockport & District Federation of TWGs          |
| 17 CHA - Rochdale  | 48 Manchester & District Retired Teachers Association      | 79 Stockport East Area Bridleways Association       |
| 18 CHA - Sheffield: Section B                            | 49 Manchester Associates Rambling Club                     | 80 Stockport Field Club                             |
| 19 CHA - Sheffield A Section Rambling Club               | 50 Manchester Fellowship Rambling Club Independent         | 81 Stockport Social & Rambling Club                 |
| 20 CHA - Stockport                                       | 51 Manchester Field Club                                   | 82 Sutton in Ashfield Rambling Club                 |
| 21 CHA/HF - Ashton-under-Lyne                            | 52 Manchester Pedestrian Club                              | 83 Toc H  |
| 22 Cheadle Hulme & Bramhall Natural History Society      | 53 Manchester Rambling Club                                | 84 Towpath Action Group                             |
| 23 Cheshire County Scout Council                         | 54 Marple & District Rambling Club                         | 85 West Lancashire Footpath Group                   |
| 24 Cheshire Tally Ho                                     | 55 Marple Community Council                                | 86 Wickersley Evening Townswomens' Guild            |
| 25 Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes: Manchester Section | 56 Marple Naturalists                                      | 87 YHA - Central Region                             |
| 26 Crescent Ramblers                                     | 57 Mellor Society  | 88 YHA - Stockport                                  |
| 27 Derby Nomad Ramblers                                  | 58 Mid Cheshire Footpath Society                           | 98 Zeneca Social Centre Hiking & Rambling Section   |
| 28 Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society             | 59 North Western Naturalists Union                         |   |
| 29 Derbyshire Pennine Club                               | 60 Nottingham Wayfarers Rambling Club                      |   |
| 30 Eyam Village Society                                  | 61 Pennine Paths Protection Society                        |   |
| 31 Geriatrics Group                                      | 62 Poynton Rambling Club                                   |   |