



PEAK & NORTHERN
FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

PEAK & NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

2000



ANNUAL REPORT 2000

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Leslie Meadowcroft

7he new millenium did not get off to a good start for us. The sudden death of our general secretary, Derek Taylor, came as a severe shock to all and some features of which we are still not combating. I

arranged immediately to call our senior officers together and a plan of campaign was evolved to deal with the immediate crisis and reallocation of various duties.

We were fortunate in that fellow officers and other members rallied round to deal with the serious nature of this situation and tribute must be paid to them for their support of the Society.

We later transferred from Tyldesley to Stockport many of the Society's belongings including a considerable volume of files to integrate into our main system. Volunteers are needed to supplement the small team involved in this large and important task.

When we moved from Hazel Grove to our present address we thought we had ample space but events have placed a strain on existing storage facilities. We investigated the potential use of a suitably furnished section of the garage but have deferred any decision until early Spring.

Meanwhile the Society continues to deal with outstanding and current issues handled by a diminishing workforce as a result of several resignations. These posts were subsequently shadowed by already overworked members, a situation which could not continue indefinitely and has now been partly resolved. New voluntary staff are under training and gaining experience.

We have adequate working space but this is fully used for only one day a week; a void that must be filled by volunteers who have the Society at heart and will offer a few hours of their time in the company of like minded members on days of the week other than Monday. So, if you have any questions on this subject, please address them to any senior officer for further information before joining the happy and sociable band of people at Taylor House. Or arrange to come along for a preview ~ a Thursday matinee is already available!

Our future? We are one of four active regional rights of way societies in this part of the country and possibly the only one with self contained headquarters. We need several people whose ambition in life is not to be transformed into a couch potato in front of the TV screen but wish to remain mentally active amongst people with similar interests. No need to leave your partner at home for they will be equally welcome in our centrally heated offices and you will have an additional interest to discuss when you return home. And possibly new friends too.

So what of the year's other events for which we just about maintained our momentum including taking Stockport MBC to the Magistrates' Court on several occasions for failing to maintain Bredbury & Romiley FP43, also involving a public inquiry at the Town Hall. Interestingly the Leader of the Council denied all knowledge of the summons to appear in the Magistrates' Court! It may be some consolation that other organisations have communication problems!

The passing into legislation at the end of the year of *The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000* will have some impact on our duties. Not all sections of the Act are operative immediately and there is great scope for procrastination especially in the section dealing with public access. There is a possible timespan of up to five years on land access for dilatory authorities.

The Rights of Way section of the Act, occupying 22 out of a total of 162 pages, should shortly be in force; we will observe keenly any extra powers which it contains for or against our interests. For example, one new power allows the public to serve notice on a local authority to remove an obstruction on a right of way (sections 63/64). There is much for the legal eagles to dwell on!

On a snowbound winter's day on the last Saturday in December, I attended a dedication and thank you ceremony in the Winnats Pass, Derbyshire, to the many voluntary workers who had made possible the passing of the new Act after many years of campaigning. If you look behind a boulder in the lower pass you will find the bronze plaque.

And some more good news...

In the Alport valley, off the Snake Pass, the National Trust, Forestry Commission and Severn Trent Water have started to preserve this unique valley with a 100 year management agreement including improved public access on foot. In recent years there was a public outcry against proposed forestry operations in the valley and the objections have borne fruit.

A joint management committee to include user interests is proposed to organise returning the valley to its original state before afforestation some years ago.

The entrance track from the Snake road will be re-hedged and there will be no extra facilities for the parking of vehicles. Much existing planting will be felled over a period of time and, after the removal of brush, left to create a natural habitat. The upper part of the valley will provide open access and existing routes will remain with some additions.

We will not see the full benefits in our lifetime but they will be experienced and enjoyed by future generations. And that is a very positive note on which to end.

ANNUAL DINNER 2000

Councillor Harry Lowe had been a member of the Peak Park Planning Authority since 1989 and subsequently became the Chairman of Park Management. We felt honoured when he accepted our invitation to speak at our Annual Dinner 2000.

He spoke from a wealth of experience not only from the Peak Park but also as a member of Derbyshire County Council. For many years Harry had chaired the annual footpaths meeting at Buxton and his jovial yet formal manner was well accepted by all who attended this event.

The preparation of this annual report had only just started when we learnt of his sudden death outside his home in Ashover where he had lived for many years.

The Society paid its last respects to a popular figure at the funeral service at his local parish church where we were represented by the President.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Norman Edwards

I am beginning to hate January. If anything is to go wrong then this seems to be the month that it happens. The tragic loss of our Secretary occurred last January and really hit us all.

Loss of our General Secretary

The officers held emergency meetings to decide how we were to deal with the workload that Derek handled. It has become apparent to me that Derek spent a considerable amount of time on the Society's work. Besides his secretarial work he dealt with obstruction reports and liaison with inspectors. He attended numerous meetings on behalf of the Society. You will see my appreciation elsewhere in this annual report and I will leave it at that. Derek will be greatly missed and it has taken a long time to organise matters now that he is no longer with us. I shall miss him for numerous things, not the least is that he will not be checking over my report and commenting on it. I had the privilege of representing the Society at the funeral and it was good to see other officers, inspectors, members and many others attending.

I had to try to organise the affairs of the Society and act as temporary Secretary as well as my Chairman and COSA unit duties. Fortunately, Adrian Littleton came to our help and agreed to take over the obstruction side of the Society. Without this help it would have been very difficult to carry on.

I keep mentioning that the majority of volunteers at Taylor House are retired. The expertise we have all acquired over the years is enormous. I was speaking to the footpath officer at Warrington MBC and he was rather amazed that purely volunteers run the Society. It is amazing how so much is accomplished by so few. In my report last year I asked for help in most departments but the response was, to say the least, disappointing. I wonder how many members do read this report (with the accounts annexed)? I think the Society should be proud they have officers willing to give up so much time to serve the Society in a voluntary way. I am particularly pleased by the assistance given to me by Derek Seddon our vice-chairman.

Loss of our General Secretary

One achievement this year is the decline in the number of Closures and Diversions to which we have objected. Not because the number has reduced but most highway authorities now consult with us before making an order. In numerous cases they get the applicant to consult with us and we can resolve many of the problems. We also are involving our inspectors in more of the applications; they are the people with an intimate knowledge of their areas and can give us detailed observations on the applications. In past years we have had to raise numerous holding objections whilst trying to sort out difficulties and seek advice from inspectors, before withdrawing the objections. We are finding that rights of way officers are being more particular before consulting us on diversions. No longer are they simply sent out as soon as the applicant advises them. Perhaps also now that in most cases the applicant has to bear the cost there is less likelihood of superfluous applications being made. As mentioned above we are well respected by most highway authorities in the way we deal with them.

Computerisation

During the year the computer has been used more and more. The first was bought with funds kindly supplied by the Thomas Lockerby Footpath Fund. Our late Secretary donated the other when he acquired a new one for his own use. The equipment donated to the Society by officers and members is greatly appreciated. Towards the end of the year we were fortunate to enlist the assistance of several new members who are computer literate and so we are now making more use of these computers. Several database programmes have been written and, if all goes well, we should be able to get more and more information onto the computers. It would be nice if we could afford to have Ordnance Survey maps on computer, but this would mean a much larger and more expensive computer to run it.

Changes in membership subscriptions

One drawback of missing an efficient Secretary was that the motion put to the AGM to alter the rates of subscriptions failed because the amounts were not spelt out on the notice calling the meeting. In the hustle of taking over and preparing for the AGM, this point was overlooked. It will be rectified at the 2001 AGM. We had to ask those who paid the new rate whether they wanted the extra returning or being placed to one of our funds. In the vast majority of cases this was agreed to and we had to pay back little to members or affiliates. I must express my thanks to all who made this decision and apologies again for the error.

One matter that did go forward at the AGM was to amend the qualification of Life members. It was felt that members

are living much longer and are more able to afford the subscriptions than when the rules were brought in originally. It is now necessary that the applicant should be 75 years of age and a member for 25 years. This change was, of course, discussed at Council prior to the AGM and may explain why the number of life members increased this year.

Society's officers

We sought a new General Secretary with all haste and were pleased when June Mabon accepted the position. She attacked the post with vigour and sorted out a good deal of the secretarial work. Unfortunately she found out the post was more onerous than she had thought and had to resign. Fortunately she has agreed to stay on as Minutes Secretary and organises meetings, venues as well as the minutes and agendas. She prepares the addresses and envelopes for sending out the minutes to well over a hundred addresses. This certainly takes a load off the shoulders of your Chairman and Vice chairman.

A nice thing about the Society is the way your officers go about their duties so conscientiously. I know that I can leave them to carry on without my interference knowing they have only to ask for advice, assistance or back up. We see little of Bill Johnson but know that, weather permitting, he is often out painting and repairing signs. The Treasurer attends to the many invoices and claim forms and you will see the results in his report. I am only sorry that we have not been able to computerise the accounts or daybooks or whatever the technical name is. I feel this is an important requirement as the present system is hard to understand by mere mortals.

Walking with a purpose

One of our Derbyshire inspectors has recently completed a survey of footpaths in eight out of the nine parishes within his area

Thanks...

Finally may I give thanks and appreciation to all the officers, inspectors, agents and COSA members for their efforts on behalf of the Society during 2000? Without them this Society would not be the force it is. I wish them all well in the future and trust that the Society can grasp the nettle of the information technology that is growing all around us. We still need to expand to take in the new technology; fortunately some of the new volunteers who have joined us recently are proficient in this leaving some of your officers behind!

and farewell...

This will be my last report to the Society as your chairman. The last year has been rather traumatic and there have been personality clashes. For this and other personal reasons I feel unable to offer my services to the Society at the next AGM. My wife and I are hoping to move house shortly and I need to spend more time with her and my grandchildren rather than be tied up every Monday or encased in my study turning out work for the Society.

I wish the Society well in the future and trust that a new chairman will take the reins firmly and continue the work which has been going on for over a century.

You lift up a stone and what do you find ...

During the course of our move to new premises we came across several copies in new condition of our 'out of print' **Centenary Booklet**.

If you wish to purchase a collector's copy, whilst stocks last one can be yours for the sum of £2 post free ~ from Taylor House, 23 Turncroft Lane, Stockport SK1 4AB

A TRIBUTE TO DEREK

Norman Edwards

The year 2000 will linger long in my memory. I lost a great and valued friend and working companion in Derek Taylor. How does one write an appreciation which will convey to others how one felt about a person with whom you have had close contact for so long? Anything written will be insignificant and seem superfluous. But here I go with some thoughts of mine.

Derek had been Secretary for some time when I became involved in the Society. Looking back through the annual reports it appears that he was appointed in 1978. So really I do not know how he developed the role of secretary and was able to work with and control what must have appeared to him a very volatile group. He was firmly established when I joined the Society as a member of the Executive Council and was quickly impressed by the way he handled the position. From the very start I knew that he had strong opinions and was not afraid to express them. However they were properly and politely put without animosity. He leaned on those local authorities which he felt they were not pulling their weight and was not afraid to express his feelings in both letters and our annual reports. I often wonder how many councils have tightened up their rights of way teams in response to pressure from Derek?

All members will have been struck by his efficient and prompt handling of correspondence. When something went wrong he was on hand to quickly correct it and acknowledge the fact. His workload was enormous and now takes three of us to try to cope with it.



When I was asked to become Chairman of this Society I demurred until certain that Derek would stay on as Secretary. We had very similar thoughts about the future of the Society. Computerisation was one of them and we would spend time throwing out ideas to each other. Many a time he would reply that my ideas were rubbish and come up with an alternative. Neither was worried about what we said or suggested because it didn't matter and we both knew there was not the slightest animosity between us.

I thought that I knew Derek quite well. But there were facets of his life that he kept very quiet. His involvement on the music scene was not exaggerated. He knew that my wife was a music teacher and an accompanist but he did not seem to want to discuss this subject with me. He lived within Wigan metropolitan borough and knew that I disappeared into the depths of Central Park every so often to watch the Rugby. He was almost

sympathetic when we (occasionally) lost and was very supportive when the club sold the ground to Tesco.

We talked for ages about how we could drag the Society into the present day and prove to others that, although a voluntary organisation, we can and do deal with matters professionally. The purchase of the premises in Offerton was such a step. It was to be both a workplace and a place where volunteers would find it pleasant in which to work. He used skills developed during his working life to organise the set up of the premises. Machinery was brought in and furniture acquired to facilitate the use of the building as a professional office. He knew where to go for such things and was adamant it had to have both aesthetic and practical appeal. We visited numerous places searching for the right furniture.

His secretarial skills become ever more apparent as I try to keep up to date with the steady stream of correspondence; reports to the Charity Commissioners, chasing the Water Board for a missing meter and setting up telephone lines. He always seemed to have both the time and patience to deal with these problems. That he will be difficult to replace is obvious.

Tributes to Derek flooded into the office. In addition to those from members and affiliated societies were two from Cheshire County Council and from Wigan and Warrington councils. They all said how his skills and knowledge of rights of way were immediately evident and admired by all who knew him. There was praise for the relationship Derek had developed with rights of way teams and how he kept those council officials on their toes. I hope we

can retain this relationship.

Derek always had the crucial support of his wife, Betty. She became a member of the Executive and was always by his side when he appeared at public events. We must not forget that he was a devoted husband and we have acknowledged this to Betty.

How should we perpetuate his memory and recognise the effort he gave so selflessly to the Society? Our first reaction was to rename the offices as Taylor House. No longer known as 'the Offerton offices' it is now 'Taylor House'. The fund set up has provided ideas of how we can best remember his name for some time to come. At the time of writing (December) we have four ideas to consider ~

Firstly, our signpost officers are looking for a site near Anglezark to erect a signpost in his memory.

Secondly, we hope to have the name of the Society placed on the fascia over the windows; this was a particular thought of Derek's.

Thirdly, a plaque will be erected over the door at Taylor House.

Finally, it is hoped to have a trophy or plaque to award each year to a Society member to recognise his or her contribution to the Society. The fund remains open and contributions should be sent directly to our Treasurer. Perhaps individuals and affiliated societies would like to contribute and swell this fund.

In conclusion I would say simply that we miss having him around. The Society will go on but its direction will obviously be affected.

by Alistair Bunting MIPROW
Public Rights of Way Officer, Bolton MBC
and Jayne Sharrock

**DEREK ~
TRIBUTES FROM
THE 'OTHER SIDE'**

I remember the shock I felt on hearing of the death of Derek Taylor. I remember thinking how is it possible for someone with so much drive, energy and commitment, someone with whom I was talking just a short time before, to die so very very suddenly. Most of all, I remember thinking how on earth are Peak & Northern going to cope now?

It's not that I have any doubts over the efficiency, commitment and drive of the members and officers of the Society, far from it. It's just that Derek set such a high standard that all of us are bound to suffer in comparison.

I first came across Derek in 1989 when I started out in public rights of way career at Derbyshire Dales. I remember being told that under no circumstances was I to make contact with Peak & Northern except to respond directly to complaints or enquiries. I was led to believe that to do so would lead to me being misquoted and that the Society gave all the appearance of a group that were anti local government and would do anything to make life difficult for me. I was given the impression that if the Council were for it, Peak and Northern would be against merely for the sake of it, regardless of the merits of the individual case. I exaggerate not; the feelings were as strong as that.

Not long after I received a strongly worded letter from Derek complaining about our lack of action over some path or other. Being new and not knowing the full history of the complaint gave me the perfect opportunity to make contact and begin, I hoped, to develop some sort of

working relationship. That I found Derek to be a charming helpful and knowledgeable person will come as no surprise to those who knew him. Further, he was a more than enthusiastic bridge builder and we forged the beginnings of a professional relationship that lasted through two more local authorities till his death.

Derek knew how local government functioned, how public rights of way officers fitted into the scheme of things and was always careful to pitch his criticisms in such a way to be most effective without being insulting. Derek could be scathing in his criticism of a Council but, speaking personally, having been present at many such moments, I would still find myself hanging back after the meeting to chat to Derek about a whole range of topics.

I asked a colleague, Jayne Sharrock, until recently my opposite number at Wigan, to give me a quote for this article ~

She replied "it was not an easy task that you set me, not because I couldn't think of anything nice, but because I couldn't think of the best way to express what a lovely man Derek was and how I valued his support over the years. But here goes -

Derek greatly appreciated the efforts of individual officers but never let up on lobbying authorities for more resources. He was determined to see improvements to the rights of way network but was always fair and reasonable. His helpful and approachable manner meant that his telephone number was taped to my desk and I found that he was always willing to make time to discuss problems, attend site meetings and provide assistance.'

MATTERS from the MINUTES

January

- membership climbs to over 1000
- Council agrees new subscription rates
- new members appointed to Assessors' Team
- sudden death of General Secretary

February

- Society appoints its legal advisor
- Council agrees to raise age and length of qualifications for honorary life members
- Bredbury & Romiley FP43: Society takes Stockport MBC to Magistrates' Court

March

- officers discuss the Society's response to the *Countryside & Rights of Way* Bill
- files of General Secretary transferred to Taylor House

April

- Derek Taylor memorial fund opened
- still looking for a COSA team leader
- new subscriptions not implemented due to administrative error

May

- lengthy discussions over Countryside Bill
- Gift Aid scheme allows charities to reclaim tax
- new inspector welcomed
- Signpost officer (administration) assumes duties
- new appointments to the Executive Committee

June

- Tameside MBC plans to appoint new rights of way officer
- local magistrates acquit motorcyclist prosecuted for riding on bridleway

- Society's signposts prove attractive to thieves ~ we wish they could only admire them
- Blackburn BC withdraws Magistrates' Court application for Belmont path ~ now for public inquiry

July

- new format for Inspector's Report
- officers to analyse Society's admin
- three new inspectors welcomed
- Cheshire CC ROW unit makes encouraging progress

August/September

- Society reviews wind farm developments
- advertising hoardings sited in the countryside ~ strong objections lodged
- approved quote from existing printer for annual report

October

- dates of AGM (26 April) and annual dinner (11 May) confirmed
- first newsletter published ~ congratulations to editor
- two new inspectors welcomed
- Work starts on database of faults, obstructions and clearances
- sudden death of Chairman of the Peak Park Management Committee, a good friend of the Society and speaker at our recent dinner

November

- investigating a web site for the Society
- fascia board planned for Taylor House
- obtaining grants is proving more difficult
- dual purpose phone line approved

December

- Parliament approves *Countryside & Rights of Way* bill
- local authorities asked to supply road traffic closures information

7he windfarm threat to the south Pennines has faded somewhat, although there was a proposal to erect 60 turbines on three sites on Denshaw (near Oldham) moors. This raised a good deal of local concern in the early part of the year but so far has not resulted in a planning application. The electricity generation industry's attention now seems to be turning more towards siting the turbines offshore.

In their place comes the telecommunications industry with its promised 30,000 masts for mobile phone users. At present these are mostly placed in built-up areas but we await with interest the applications for open country sites.

In July the Government relaxed the regulations on outdoor advertising. Although I have seen one or two examples of the early exploitation of this new freedom for the publicity mongers, so far the number of large hoardings in the countryside has not been as bad as I feared.

As a balancing act December brought the 'Right to Roam' Bill, now officially the *Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000*, which promises that the public will have the right to walk across mountain, moor, heath and down by the end of 2005. Some provisions come into force on 1 February

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY

Derek Seddon

2001 including the mapping of access land, the removal of obstructions and the prevention of driving on footpaths. By April 2002, if on schedule, the modernisation of the rights of way network should start. We await the outcome with interest.

Already, Society members have been helping Stockport MBC with their Walking Strategy scheme to make an up-to-date record of every definitive path in the borough. The Council has unveiled its draft plan for the faster and more comprehensive use of its powers of enforcement; we're watching that, too.

Saving the best news for the last, I trust that you will by now have all received the two issues of the Society's newsletter. The second we think was a big improvement in style and production over the first, due to generous sponsorship of the Cheshire Building Society and the computer skills of new recruits, Peter Rhodes and Peter Palmer. My grateful thanks to all for your enthusiastic help.

The Society's slide lecture

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

Please contact him (☎ 0161 483 2482) for further details



FOOTPATHS REPORT

Adrian Littleton

We always knew that Derek Taylor worked immensely hard for the Society and, after his untimely death, it came as no surprise that his was a difficult act to follow. We moved his files to Turncroft Lane and I grappled with the obstructed footpaths and missing signposts segment of his workload.

The first task was to process reports which had arrived during Derek's last illness. One of our inspectors convalesced from her Christmas by yomping around Cheshire recording faults. Our man in Sheffield had scoured four counties for ploughed up paths and missing signposts. Thus primed, the pumping of reports to local authorities spluttered into action. Since then ~

- we have replaced the standard form of 'Obstruction Report' with a 'Fault Report' on the basis that some items which should be reported (such as missing signs) are not obstructions
- the flow of reports from our stalwarts has been unabated
- vigorous new inspectors have been appointed ~ cordially welcomed are John Carter, Bob Dumbarton, Kate Holden, Dennis Rawlinson, Graham Sencicle and Gordon Taylor
- with much help from Bob Dumbarton, a database of faults has been created which will promote the efficient chasing of outstanding fault reports via nagging letters; these are tedious to compose but often necessary if action is finally to be cajoled.

During 2000, 247 reports were sent to ~

<i>highway authority</i>	<i>faults</i>	<i>rectified</i>
Barnsley	0	0
Blackburn & Darwen	13	1
Blackpool	0	0
Bolton	11	5
Bradford	5	0
Bury	3	1
Calderdale	2	0
Cheshire	40	13
Derby City	0	0
Derbyshire	108	18
Doncaster	1	0
Halton	0	0
Kirklees	20	1
Knowsley	0	0
Lancashire	2	0
Leeds	0	0
Liverpool	0	0
Manchester	3	2
Oldham	0	0
Rochdale	0	0
Rotherham	2	0
St Helens	0	0
Salford	1	1
Sefton	0	0
Sheffield	0	0
Staffordshire	11	0
Stockport	14	0
Stoke on Trent	0	0
Tameside	4	0
Trafford	0	2
Wakefield	0	0
Warrington	7	0
Wigan	0	0
Wirral	0	0
totals	247	44

This list emphasises ~

- the size of the area the Society covers
- the high level of fault reporting which our members achieve in our heartland – Derbyshire, Cheshire, Kirklees and Stockport
- a need for more inspectors in Lancashire, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire and Merseyside: surely some of the comedians who live between the M6 and Liverpool Bay are blocking public paths?

Liverpool is about to create its Definitive Footpath Map – 50 years after most other highway authorities. That process needs monitoring by members of this Society with enough local knowledge to pick out public rights of way which crafty landowners would prefer to forget. If you have that knowledge plus toughness of spirit, please contact me.

During 2000 it was desirable for the Society to participate in only one public inquiry where we supported Stockport MBC which sought to bypass a landslip on Bredbury & Romiley 43 by diverting the path. The Council is unlikely to have taken this initiative if Leslie Meadowcroft had not mithered tirelessly for years and taken proceedings in the Magistrates' Court. The Diversion Order was confirmed despite opposition by a landowner on whose rough grazing a few metres of the new route passes.

One of my tasks is to monitor the footpath network being created around Manchester Airport's second runway. If elegant civil engineering works excite you, visit the huge tunnel which takes the Bollin plus bats, amphibians and walkers under the new runway.

The A538 Wilmslow to Altrincham road passes under the runways in two tunnels. Near the Wilmslow end is a roundabout from where a stepped path leads uphill. Follow this path to the mouth of the river tunnel. Here you may go through the tunnel, cross the Bollin by the first bridge that you come to and then walk south westerly to the end of the new runway. Instead of immediately going through the tunnel you may cross the Bollin by a new footbridge at the tunnel mouth. Then, either take the new path which runs upstream along the Bollin away from the runway, or continue along the south east side of the runway returning along its NW side and through the tunnel.

Very gratefully I thank the team of volunteers both in the field and at Taylor House who made possible the work described in this report.

Dear readers, at Taylor House we grumble and groan ... 'why can't he tell us which county he was walking in ~ the map reference implies that he was swimming Anglezarke Reservoir when he located this fault'. But we are workaholics obsessed with writing letters about broken footbridges so, when you find a fault in a public footpath, do tell us the full details.

As you hunt for problems and, more importantly, enjoy the scenery, companionship and exercise recall this rhyme ~

*Here lies the body of Excelsior Flay
Who died asserting his rights of way,
He was right, dead right, as he strode along,
But just as dead as if he were wrong.*

(with grateful thanks to a recent letter in the Times newspaper about a dinghy sailor and an oil tanker)

Our **Signpost Officer** (Bill Johnson) reports that ~

- 1 new post has been erected, 9 posts await erection and 19 have been repaired.
- the assistance of the National Park rangers is greatly appreciated
- I will be happy to send a full report ~ please enclose sae with your request

SOME PUBLIC BODIES

County councils & national parks

Cheshire County Council

A notable improvement in the handling of footpath matters by this authority and its relationships with the voluntary sector. In particular its sponsorship of an evening of thanksgiving and appreciation at Tatton Park which lacked only a workshop for an exchange of ideas.

Derbyshire Council Council

Meetings appear to be few and far between and information is sparse although usually forthcoming in response to a direct request; your Chairman is our representative.

Lancashire County Council

Not a lot to say at the moment, except to criticise the abysmally slow pace at which it handles matters for public inquiry even when most of the work involved has been undertaken by voluntary organisations. More involvement by elected members could be productive

Staffordshire County Council ???

Our bi-annual journey keeps us in touch on policy matters and maintains personal contacts. This year the Chief Executive chaired the meeting and we appeared to make more progress. We warmly welcome his offer to supply us with copies of the revised definitive map when ready.

Peak National Park

We have just one main meeting a year, at Buxton, but this is well organised and conducted with good representations from elected members, officers and user groups. Prepares and distributes excellent minutes for discussion.

Metropolitan districts

Bolton MBC

We have regular meetings with this authority and, whilst there are several on-going issues which need to be expedited, the situation overall is reasonably satisfactory.

Rochdale MB

There is much good work going on in the borough; officers are responding to problems arising for walkers on both urban and country paths.

Stockport MBC

A lack of overall control and direction with chiefs who are prominent but not sufficiently well informed to direct the indians: a case of fragmented management and poor leadership. Cases are still out-standing from the last century but omitted from their window dressing publicity.

Tameside MBC

now has a full time footpath officer, Julie Simpson, who was appointed in July 2000.

Great improvements have been made ~ the Footpaths Forum, the computerised record of definitive footpaths and the almost completed Milestone 2000 targets. These all improve this authority's star rating. We look forward to longstanding legal cases being dealt with swiftly which would really indicate the Council is taking its responsibilities seriously.

Trafford MBC

This authority is one of the few without a full time rights-of-way officer and there is a lack of co-ordination. We have intermittent meetings with their officers but they do not appear to enjoy the full support of elected members and financial support appears limited.

other district councils

Blackburn BC

Could do much to improve the shining hour.

Staffordshire Moorlands DC

Not a highway authority but it does much for rights of way and certainly earns a brownie point for its work on Leek FP8 and the subsequent public inquiry.

NW Council for Sport & Recreation

Our President is a member of their Executive. A useful contact and support body with a very useful voice into national and local government.

Kinder Advisory Committee of the National Trust meets regularly, its area of responsibility is increasing and it is likely to be involved in the Alport area project. Has appointed our President as

PENNINE POSER

by K Ormiston

To the poser who stands
In his moleskins so grand,
At the bar with his halves and cheroots.
I say don't stray too far
From your wife and your car,
Or you'll dirty those eighty quid boots.

You claim crossing Kinder
Is ever so easy,
But walking was never your scene,
For the Rock Tavern
At Chisworth
Is the nearest to Kinder you've been.

You stand there and talk,
Say you've had a good walk,
As you order your wife a pink gin,
But can you tell me why
You are perfectly dry
When we are all soaked to the skin.

I dream that one day
I will tempt you
To walk over Kinder with me,
But I know you will never,
You have no endeavour
And a poser forever you'll be



TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith Wykes

Once again, a moderately successful financial year with total *Funds* growing by 5% (£7,839) outpacing the rate of retail inflation.

- The sources of this increase are *Income & Expenditure Account* surplus £3,989 (1999 : £7,632) and £3,956 donations, less other movements.
 - Donations will be substantially higher this year as resulting from generous individual contributions and the virement of the membership subscription increases, not implemented. Grateful thanks to all.
 - The *Derek Taylor* (late Hon General Secretary) *Memorial Fund* stands at £500; expenditure from this fund has yet to be incurred.
-

Notes on Balance Sheet (next page)

- **Fixed Asset** values are 1.3% lower
- Substantially higher (+79%) **Investment** values reflect the facts of disposal of our *Woolwich plc* holding in exchange for a *Barclays plc* share - holding and cash; and the acquisition of 18,000 Non Redeemable Class A Preference Shares of £1 each, with our *Hampshire Trust plc* bankers.
- This latter acquisition was funded from our *Hampshire Trust* account so reducing our exposure on that account by 23% - £48,467 (£63,007 : 1999)
- The **tax refund due** figure of £466 remains at 1999 values; processing of Inland Revenue claims continues apace; *Gift Aid* form certifiers are reminded of the need for you to have paid sufficient income and/or capital gains tax to cover the tax on your donations.

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2000

		2000	1999
Assets			
Fixed	Freehold property at cost	60,153	60,153
	Furniture, fixtures & fittings	1,770	2,209
	Computer equipment	745	1,116
		62,668	63,478
Investments	Long Term (at market value)		
	Government stock	19,427	19,183
	UK equities	20,291	2,907
		39,718	22,090
	Short Term		
	Hampshire Trust 12 month notice Deposit	48,467	63,007
	Cafcash High Interest cheque	19,775	14,621
	Royal Bank of Scotland • Bus. High Interest	250	112
	• Current	150	150
	Skipton BS Matured Instant Access	100	100
	Leeds & Holbeck BS Charityline	100	100
	Cash and postages float	45	8
		68,887	78,098
	Badge stock on hand	119	129
	Tax refund due	466	466
	2000 income accrued to 1999	-	14
		171,858	164,275
Liabilities	Funds of the Society	166,236	158,397
	Ten year membership suspense	4,258	4,693
	Five year membership suspense	1,258	1,159
	Creditors & advance subscriptions 2001/02	106	26
		171,858	164,275

Keith D Wykes

Honorary Treasurer

28 January 2001

FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY as at 31 December 2000

all figures are £

	1999	Movements		2000
General	137,378	6,148	168	143,358
Defence	6,484	821		7,305
Signpost	1,358	1,032	1,131	1,259
Development	2,028	576	211	2,393
MIRR§	10,702	272		10,974

Memorial funds

FSH Head	142			142
E Royce	55			55
D Taylor		500		500
H Wild	250			250
	158,397	+ 9,349	- 1,510	= 166,236

Funds of the Society - notes

- **General Funds** of the Society have increased by 5% (£5,979), including £3,989 contributed by the *Income & Expenditure Account* surplus.
- The **Defence Fund** stands at a much more healthy level (£7,305) than some years ago (£4,010 : 1992) thanks to a £500 donation received from the *Longdendale Amenity Society* and your generous donations.
- The Development Fund, ordinarily closed to new donations, has, exceptionally received a donation of £500 (before *Gift Aid* tax relief) earmarked for office equipment purchases.
- The generous donations to the SP Fund (£1,032) have been outstripped by increased signpost erection and maintenance expenditure and activity resulting in a £99 decrease in this fund.

Please consider the Signpost Fund as your number one donation priority.

- §The **MIRR** (*Matured Investment Revaluation Reserve Fund*) effectively reduces the Balance Sheet *Market Value* of Investments to the lower of maturity and cost values on account of the fact that such investments are intended to be held indefinitely or until maturity.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE for the year ended 31 December 2000

Income	2000	1999	Expenditure	2000	1999
	£	£		£	£
Subscriptions					
Ordinary	715	919	Taylor House:		
Joint	636	688	• Running costs	1,959	1,924
Ten year transfers	1,235	1,332	• Depreciation	975	858
Five year transfers	555	454	Travel	1,167	1,702
Junior	5	5	Annual Report (net)	749	789
Affiliations	878	861	Postages	479	652
total subscriptions	4,024	4,259	Photocopying	410	179
Investment income	5,886	5,471	Secretariat	281	1,073
Other income					
Grants	-	4,767	Newsletter	281	-
Advertising	840	597	Computer consumables	189	92
Affiliation service	80	75	Stationery	167	245
Lecture fees	50	72	Subs & donations	154	123
Sundries	154	554	Telephones	150	320
total	1,124	6,065	Sundries	84	206
			Total expenditure	7,045	8,163
			Transfer to Gen Funds	3,989	7,632
total income	11,034	15,795		11,034	15,795

Income & Expenditure Account - notes

- The annual surplus of £3,989 (1999 : £7,632) is much reduced. This is a product of the fact of no grant income (£4,767 : 1999) and reduced Subscription Income (£4,024 : 2000 - £4,259 : 1999).
- The 7.6% increase in **Investment Income** is due partially to increased Dividend Income rates payable (@ 8.9%) on our newly acquired *Hampshire Trust Class A Preference Share holding*
- **Ten and five year subscriptions** are credited to the Income Account in ten or five even portions respectively from the year in which they are received.
- **Expenditure** has decreased by 15% reflecting, in the main, decreased expenditure on travel, postages, secretariat, stationery and telephone cost heads.
- It should be noted that Advertising Income (including sponsorship) £840 covers Annual Report expenditure of £749.
- Taylor House running costs are much the same as in 1999.
- The £231 increase in photocopying costs includes for repairs: the repair cost element may be regarded as non-recurring.

Income & Expenditure Account ~ notes (continued)

• Sundry income (£154) comprises ~	£	Badge sales (including adjustments)	4
Annual Dinner		• Sundry expenditure (£84) comprises ~	£
excess of income over expenditure	12	PL/PA and	
Filing cabinet sales ex 1 Nelson Street	38	power driven tools insurances	40
Chisworth audit	100	Fax repair	35

Other notes

- *Deeds of Covenant* are still a very convenient and cost effective way for a taxpayer to commit to giving on a regular basis. If you have set up a Deed of Covenant before 6 April 2000 you will not have to sign a new *Gift Aid Declaration* form. The *Deed of Covenant* will stand in place of the *Gift Aid Declaration*. However, any donations made outside the terms of this Deed must be covered by a *Gift Aid Declaration*.
- If you are a taxpayer, I urge you to consider completing either a Deed of Covenant (for regular donations or annual subscriptions only) or a Gift Aid Declaration (a one off declaration for donations and membership subscriptions).
- These forms are obtainable from ~
Keith Wykes, Honorary Treasurer, Peak & Northern Footpaths Society
23 Turncroft Lane, Offerton, Stockport SK1 4AB
- Should you wish to pay any sums to the Society by Standing Order (SO) then please instruct our bankers noting that our bank details are :
Bankers The Royal Bank of Scotland
Address 115 Mather Way, Salford Shopping Precinct, Salford M6 5EH
Sort Code 16-28-14
Account No. 12127691
- Subscriptions are due on the date of the AGM (26 April 2001).
- Or, you may wish to give donations (and membership subscriptions) by the *Give As You Earn* scheme operated by your employer.
Or CAF via the *CAF Voucher Scheme* where you make a donation to CAF or similar body and then make your charitable payments by a special voucher – rather like a cheque book.



*have
you thought
about
including
the Society
in your Will ???*

Independent Examiner's Report

to the Trustees of the Peak & Northern Footpaths Society

I report on the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2000

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts: you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act') does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention -

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements ~
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Elizabeth Hudson ACA (signed)

Bradley Fold
Woodford Lane
Newton
Macclesfield

15th February 2001

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Ernie Sutton

As once again I start to compile the membership figures for the Annual Report and try to put together a few comments about the numerical state of the Society, I come to the one part of the job which causes me so much concern. I am sure that anyone who reads this part of the report will realise only too quickly the reason for this.

Last year I was able to report that the downward trend in membership appeared to have been arrested but this year the decline has been greater than in recent years. Although the losses of Annual members have been largely offset by new members, it is among ten year members that the decline has been greatest. I sincerely hope that reading this appeal may spur those who have not yet renewed to do so.

I regret having to report the passing of two honorary life members and other long serving members.

On a brighter note, the response of many members to the introduction of the Gift Aid Form has been very pleasing.

Finally, it gives me pleasure to express my annual but nevertheless most sincere thanks to individual members and affiliated societies for their continuing and generous financial support.



	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
annual	391	360	339	318	298
Ten year	616	607	571	556	468
Five year	18	49	79	117	146
Honorary life	13	13	10	11	14
Juniors	2	4	4	3	3
total	1040	1033	1003	1005	929
Affiliated	91	89	89	85	85

AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 Alderley Edge, Wilmslow & District FP Society | 29 Hanliensian Rambling Club | 56 RA Bolton Group |
| 2 Altrincham & District Rambling Club | 30 Hayfield Civic Trust | 57 RA Congleton Group |
| 3 Ashton-u-Lyne & District Walking Club | 31 HF Bolton Group | 58 RA East Cheshire Area |
| 4 Barlborough Parish Council | 32 HF Bury Group | 59 RA Manchester Area |
| 5 Barnsley Mountaineering Club | 33 HF Manchester Group | 60 RA New Mills Group |
| 6 Blackbrook Conservation Society | 34 HF Nottingham Group | 61 RA North & Mid Cheshire Area |
| 7 Brookdale Ramblers | 35 HF Warrington Rambling Club | 62 RA Oldham Group |
| 8 Buxton Field Club | 36 High Lane Residents Association | 63 RA Sheffield Group |
| 9 Buxton Rambling Club | 37 ITT Rambling Club | 64 RA Stockport Group |
| 10 C A E | 38 Ladybrook Valley District Scout Council | 65 RA SYNED Area |
| 11 CHA Bolton Rambling Club | 39 Leek Footpath Rambling Club | 66 Romiley Townswomen's Guild |
| 12 CHA Bury & District | 40 Littleborough Civic Trust | 67 Rucksack Club |
| 13 CHA Eccles | 41 Longdendale & Glossopdale FP Preservation Soc | 68 Sale U3A Walking Club |
| 14 CHA Manchester Rambling Club | 42 Macclesfield & District Field Club | 69 Sheffield Clarion Ramblers |
| 15 CHA Mansfield | 43 Macclesfield Rambling Club | 70 Sheffield Co-op Party Rambling Club |
| 16 CHA Nottingham Rambling Club | 44 Manchester & District Retired Teachers Assn | 71 Sheffield U3A Walking Goup 'A' |
| 17 CHA Oldham & District Rambling Club | 45 Manchester Associates Rambling Club | 72 Shirland & Higham Parish Council |
| 18 CHA Rochdale | 46 Manchester Field Club | 73 St Catherines Rambling Club |
| 19 CHA Sheffield Section B | 47 Manchester Pedestrian Club | 74 Stockport & District Federation of TWG's |
| 20 Chapel en le Frith Amenity Society | 48 Manchester Rambling Club | 75 Stockport East Area Bridleways Association |
| 21 Cheadle Hulme & Bramhall Natural History Society | 49 Marple & District Rambling Club | 76 Stockport Field Club |
| 22 Cheshire Tally Ho | 50 Marple Community Council | 77 Stockport Social & Rambling Club |
| 23 Club AZ Walkers | 51 Marple Naturalists | 78 Stockport Walkers |
| 24 Crescent Ramblers | 52 Mellor Society | 79 Sutton in Ashfield Rambling Club |
| 25 Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society | 53 Mid Cheshire Footpath Society | 80 The Moorsiders (Urmston) R/Group |
| 26 Derbyshire Pennine Club | 54 North Western Naturalists Union | 81 The Wayfarers Rambling Club |
| 27 Eyam Village Society | 55 Poynton Rambling Club | 82 Toc H Matlock |
| 28 Geriatrics Group | | 83 West Lancashire Footpath Group |
| | | 84 YHA Central Region |
| | | 85 YHA Stockport |