



Peak & Northern Footpaths Society

**ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2002
HANDBOOK**



ANNUAL REPORT 2002

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The cover illustration of our late President, Leslie Meadowcroft, was taken at the dedication of the memorial signpost to Derek Taylor on 12 May 2002

photograph by Robert Fysh



We are very grateful for the continuing support of our advertisers and ask that you should support them whenever possible

Leslie was a driving force of the Peak & Northern Footpaths Society since joining in 1965. His passing leaves an enormous gap both in our ranks and in our reserves of knowledge of the arcane lore of rights of way. It will be difficult, almost impossible, to fill.

At the age of eight he was introduced by his uncle to the joys of the countryside and the paths that run through it and was to become dedicated to their promotion and protection.

Wartime service

In the early part of the last war, then in his late teens, he was already a keen member of the Ramblers' Association and the YHA, but military service intervened. He joined the Royal Signals, was posted to India with the 17th Indian Division and was one of that now dwindling band who served in Burma all the way from the north down to Rangoon in the far south. After the Japanese surrender, he was sent first to Java to set up communication connections then, on his own, to Sumatra. Faced with a murderous revolt by Indonesian nationalists (freedom fighters) who had risen against the Dutch colonists, he was given an escort of Japanese soldiers under a Japanese officer to protect him. He carried a hand grenade to protect himself from the Japanese should they forget their instructions. A bizarre situation which he took in his stride.

Returning to India and waiting to be sent back to Britain, he persuaded his superiors to allow him to lead a trekking party, complete with porters, to Sikkim in the Himalayas. An early appearance of his renowned powers of persuasion.



Back home...

... in Blighty he lost no time in joining the push for greater access to open country and was among the leaders organising the great rallies in Cave Dale, Derbyshire, to promote that ideal and for the setting-up of National Parks. The Peak District became Britain's first National Park as a result of the efforts of Leslie and like-minded enthusiasts. Now we all reap the benefits of that wonderful, liberating concept. Leslie served on the Peak Park Advisory committee and on the National Trust until his death. He was the YHA's Countryside Officer for the Peak region.

Cown Edge Way

Probably the achievement which pleased him most was his co-operation with Dr Frank Head and Frank Mason of the Peak & Northern and RA in creating the Cown Edge Way, an 18 mile circular walk into the Peak District which starts from Nelson Street in Hazel Grove, across the road from his home. If we are looking for a way to commemorate his life and work, it seems to me that a signpost somewhere along that attractive route would be ideal. Both the Peak & Northern and Stockport YHA are looking into this.

Chairman and President of this Society

Leslie became Chairman of our Society, serving in that post for 15 years. He 'retired' to become a very active President four years ago still riding his pet hobby-horses, serving on committees around the north west, fighting to preserve footpaths by needling reluctant local authorities through the mail, at magistrates' courts or public inquiries; lecturing, fundraising from impossible sources (his abilities in that direction were legendary). He originated the Society's Annual Dinner and ran it up to our latest one in April.

Leslie Meadowcroft ~ a personal tribute by John Houfe (Vice President)

I, and I suspect many others, knew nothing of Leslie's wartime experiences until I read Derek's obituary. This is sad, partly because I admire hugely people who went through such experiences and partly because they must have a big impact on your attitude to life and other people. They also underline that Leslie was a person who made things happen rather than merely hoped they would.

I believe Leslie joined the Society after returning to this country and he was listed as a member of Council as a delegate (from the YHA?) in those early years.

He edited our Annual Report and made it self sufficient by badgering advertisers to cover the production costs.

He gave his time and his life to furthering his ideals and those of this Society. Perhaps he found it difficult to understand how others could not be as dedicated nor as deeply involved as he was. Certainly, if he found you could carry out a task he was never backward at asking you to do two more at the same time.

At Taylor House, we were unaware of the pain and discomfort he must have been in during his final months. We knew of the inconvenience caused by glaucoma which prevented him from driving, but which was mollified to some degree by his wife Lorna's unfailing assistance though she herself has her own range of disabilities. But we didn't know the daily struggle he must have against pain.

He was a fighter to the end ~ keeping a watchful eye on the workings of the new Right to Roam Act. He was determined to see that it fulfilled its promise to give us all the access to open country he had fought for all his life.

Rest well, Leslie, you have deserved it.

Characteristically it wasn't long before he became more involved as shown by this excerpt from our 1952 annual report ~

As in previous years, Mr Redford has been exceptionally busy, arranging and attending conferences in various parts of the Society's area and in doing work that ought to have been done by others. Promises of help too often have not been fulfilled. Consequently he has had to fall back on the good offices of Mr LG Meadowcroft to motor him and other helpers into the countryside to make good the omissions.

Continued on page 40

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Derek Seddon

2002 was a traumatic year for the Society, with the sudden death of our President, Leslie Meadowcroft, followed quickly by the enforced retirement on health grounds of the Secretary. Both had given long years of service to the Society. Each was a deep resource of footpath knowledge and wide experience. Neither has as yet been replaced and I suspect it may be a few years before we find people of their calibre to guide the Peak and Northern.

Leslie was, of course, the Society's recognised face, our representative on numerous area committees and chairman of some. Now, as a direct result of the Rights of Way Act, many new forums have been launched by local authorities. So far, 18 volunteers have come forward to represent the Society, perhaps lacking Leslie's expertise but willing to learn how to be our eyes and ears at these gatherings. I am grateful and encouraged by this enthusiastic response. It's good that the knowledge gained will now be spread much wider.

On the other hand, the attendance at Council meetings continues to disappoint, remaining both low and static, slightly better at Taylor House than at the Friends Meeting House in Manchester. I appeal to all members to come to assist in the running of the Society. Remember, the Treasurer offers to pay the travel expenses of all attendees.

Adrian Littleton was as good as his word on his retirement as Secretary. His self-imposed task of reorganising the filing

system is almost complete and already is recognised as a sweeping success. Access to information on all paths is now much faster and more efficient. It was he alone who reviewed the spread of our membership in pursuit of the answer to the down-sizing issue, which remains a problem still to be solved. His report appeared in the January edition of *Signpost*. We hope that you all have read it carefully and will let us know what you think in time for the AGM in April.

The third of Adrian's pet projects, the June Conference was also a success ~ the idea of providing a venue for inspectors to meet to discuss mutual problems went down particularly well. As one inspector delightedly said: 'it was such a relief to find I wasn't the only one working away out there!' We will be repeating this opportunity for experience swapping after lunch at the AGM and we hope that our new proposal to change to Saturday for both AGM and Annual 'Dinner' will encourage more of our valued older members, who might be doubtful about coming into Manchester at night, to turn up and share in the proceedings.

Co-ordinating the production of the Annual Report and Accounts, another of Leslie's jobs, has fallen to me. Fortunately, I have the able assistance of the Vice Chairman who is fighting a losing battle trying to find advertisers at a time of tightening belts in the media world. Several of our past supporters have dropped out, which inevitably means an increase in its net cost. Further in the background is John Houfe, a Vice President now living in Scotland, who handles the editing, design and typesetting with the utmost efficiency from his northern fastness.

Another struggle has been the securing of adequate civil liability insurance for

our Wednesday walk leaders. Since the insurance companies took fright last April at the perceived risks, it has taken eight months of persistence to arrive at a situation where we can truly say 'Relax - you're covered'.

The value of our two computers and the skilled operatives who manipulate their technicalities have really come into their own in the past year. The improvement in the output of letters, obstruction recording, communication with inspectors and updating of membership records has been striking. Thanks to the efforts of June Mabon, we have a revised membership leaflet and all inspectors are being issued with official badges to help identify them to anyone who needs to know. The

Inspectors' Handbook is in the process of being updated.

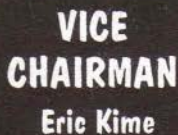
The Society's slide lecture is the next project for updating, that valuable arm in gaining support among walking or civic groups in the drive to bring in new members. Our mobile exhibition stands, which are taken to festivals and agricultural shows, need complete renewal to help us make friends and influence people.

Whichever way the voting goes on downsizing, we need to attract more younger and active volunteers willing to work for the Society's aims as effectively as those ageing stalwarts who carry them out at present. But then we've been saying that for most of the 109 years that the PNFS has been in existence.

It's a dogsbody's life ...

I know a man who likes to tell people that on the day he joined the army Adolf Hitler committed suicide. Few of us can claim that so routine an enrolment had such dramatic effect and certainly no one who volunteers to work at Taylor House expects to transform Peak & Northern overnight. The sight of all those record files is enough to dispel any dreams of glory. Yet every one of the workers here has a direct impact on the Society's performance and no one could fail to be impressed by the way they get on with their chosen tasks. However, if you were to ask me what my task is, I would find it difficult to describe. I think I would define myself as a dogsbody, ready to plug any gap that appears so long as it has nothing to do with computers or that ilk.

It is no secret that our great weakness is that Taylor House is staffed only on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons because we do not have enough volunteers



**VICE
CHAIRMAN**
Eric Kime

to open every day. The Thursday helpers do not include any 'admin' staff so mail arriving after Tuesday has to wait until the following Monday for attention and many telephone callers must be irritated by getting only the answering machine.

Ideally we should have at least one paid full-time employee five days a week so that volunteers could come to help when convenient but the Society's income will not meet that. It is fully adequate for our running costs, with something over, and we are always ready to spend the surplus on worthwhile projects so long as they come within the objects defined in our constitution. Suggestions are more than welcome.

GENERAL SECRETARY

Adrian Littleton

Secretary and Courts & Inquiries Officer to 30 June, subsequently Legal Adviser ~ not an officer

Firstly - a personal item. Several decades of work-aholicism were quenched last spring by an abrupt anatomical command 'ease off'. I stepped down at the end of June after the conference at Quarry Bank Mill. Here is a tour through some of my 2002 tasks ~

1. Modernising our Constitution

During 2001, with help from the Council, an Officers' Working Party redrafted the Constitution. The old (and new) Constitution required the written approval of the Charity Commissioners for certain changes. Murphy's Law decreed that two important letters did not arrive when intended; so we took to the April Extraordinary General Meeting a text which I thought had the Commissioners' approval (via a 45 minute telephone conversation) but which (as one of those letters stated) did not!

The Commissioners disapproved the words 'exploiting for the public all legislation concerning [public] rights [of way] and open spaces' because, they averred, **exploiting** is inherently evil. Whilst conceding that it may connote wickedness - eg '19th century mill owners exploited pauper children' ~ I contended that eg a report that 'Casterbridge Rovers exploited the fragility of the Coketown defence' has no such taint; but the Commissioners were adamant.

They commented that we did not need the phrase because implicitly PNFS may take advantage of the new legislation. Accordingly, at the 2003 EGM it will be proposed that 'exploiting...' be expunged.

2. Archives

Reorganisation is almost complete. Several people deserve thanks for their help ~ notably (but **not** exclusively) Clare Mortin, Geoff Daubeney and June Mabon. If you wish to see our file on a path please telephone Taylor House (the answerphone operates seven days a week) and make an appointment to call. We are likely to have copies of the Definitive Map, its associated text, fault reports from members and any Path Order (diversion, upgrading, etc) and maybe also consultation letters and planning applications affecting the path.

3. Public inquiries

I represented the Society at three of these:

Belmont 18 and 51

For many years, procedural rules of the High Court and public inquiries have required the main participants to tell each other in advance the detailed evidence they intend to present. Preparation for the February 2002 inquiry into Blackburn with Darwen Council's Closure and Diversion Orders on Belmont 18 and 51 at Charles Turner's Mill was impeded by the vagueness of the local council's 'public safety' justification for these Orders which endured until the end of the Council's presentation of its case at the Inquiry. Temporary Closure Orders had prevented objectors making on-site inspections to assess what safety issues might exist.

After the Council's case, the Inquiry heard evidence from its supporters. The rules against ambushing other parties with hitherto undisclosed evidence do not apply to supporters.

The Mill's Personnel Director testified that the movement of lorries and fork lift trucks over the paths and the storage of dangerous chemicals nearby created substantial hazards which required the Mill's employees to work under tight disciplines, which Turner could not apply to path users (who included inquisitive children).

Objectors were deterred from cross examining this witness because without detailed knowledge of the company's operations our questions were more likely to strengthen his evidence than weaken it. Instead objectors relied on the argument that 'Turner has a legal duty to protect path users against the hazards described: without diverting the path.' Despite the steepness and arduousness of the diversion route, the Inspector confirmed the Order.

Roughlee Booth paths 21, 38, 47 and 49 ~ Lancashire

This was another diversion on to a steep path ~ ordered to enhance the security of the converter of a derelict farmhouse into a very des res. In collaboration with Pendle RA, PNFS objected on the grounds that a gently sloping path was to be replaced by arduous steps too steep for walkers suffering from the impairments of age and infirmity.

Although the Order was confirmed; I am glad that we objected. When a ruin-buyer urges a Council to transfer pleasant paths onto inconvenient and unattractive diversion routes the Council must be reminded from time to time of the costs and labours of an inquiry.

Odd Rode 61: Cheshire

For many years, users of Odd Rode 24, the delightful towpath of the Macclesfield Canal near Ramsdell Hall, were able to walk it in conjunction with Path 57 to Little Moreton Hall; via a concessionary

link. The Hall is a fine National Trust mansion and has a large car park. The link runs from the towpath up an 11metre incline onto the haunch of the footbridge taking path 57 across the canal. Irked by Cheshire County Council's refurbishment of another path on his land, the farmer closed the link.

Cheshire CC made a Creation Order whereby the link was to become Odd Rode Path 61. The farmer objected. At the public inquiry in June 2002 I enjoyed supporting the Council. The farmer said that walkers did not trouble him but he did not want riff raff (fisherman and boat people) on his land. The Order was confirmed. If you want a walk which takes in views of fine buildings, wide vistas and attractive canal scenery, go to Little Moreton Hall and walk Paths 57, 61 and 24. A satisfactory lunch can be found at the Bleeding Wolf on the A34 in Hall Green, near to the canal.

4. The Conference at Quarry Bank Mill

This was held on 21 June 2002 and attended by about 40 members. There were talks by PNFS members, Jane Krause, Cheshire CC's Countryside Officer, and Paul Mutch from the Countryside Commission. After lunch, members stretched their legs and their imaginations in group exercises on diversion schemes, two of which involved a hypothetical bridge over the mill leat. Not enough time was left for general discussion ~ a deficiency which I hope will be made good at the session following the AGM.

The job of Secretary

I won't pretend that the Secretary's work is 100% platinum pleasure. A person

concluded on page 10 ...



Inspectors' conference at Quarry Bank Mill in June

(Lecturer-Bob Dumbarton)

who zealously protects footpaths doesn't always cease to be abrasive when he stops laying into a delinquent farmer and starts addressing a PNFS colleague. There are insurance companies who promise to call back with quotes but never do and local authorities for whom footpath preservation has the lowest priority.

There are also enormous challenges and satisfactions and lots of people whose enthusiasm for saying 'thank you' outweigh the occasional curmudgeon.

There are many fascinating discoveries and surprises. Some meetings are too long, but not for the want of leadership ~ Derek Seddon's appetite for hard work and his chairmanship skills are inspirational for any secretary.

A cheerful disposition and enjoyment of problem solving are the essential qualifications. Surely, dear reader, you have these ?

We win some.....

For 20 years, Leek 8, with its splendid views, was blocked at its western end. Staffordshire CC made an Extinguishment Order. There was a lengthy public inquiry at which the late Leslie Meadowcroft joined forces with the District Council and other user groups to object. The inspector refused to confirm the Order.

An Order diverting the path around the steepest part of the obstruction was made and now Leek 8 is open again. Its eastern and western ends are at OS refs 9840 5708 and 9795 5720. If you start at the east, go north and then turn west. Take the family there for an enjoyable Sunday stroll ~ limbering up for the Roaches.

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY

Derek Seddon

As I write, the Government is debating whether to take up the option of a new generation of nuclear power stations (daunting thought) or to go for more encouragement of renewable energy sources (will they be powerful enough?) or a compromise which involves both. I'm glad I don't have to make the decision.

The 'renewables', of course, includes wind farms and we are pleased to see that the message seems to be getting across that these are not welcome in open country. A special case has been made for the first, single, wind machine to be given permission in the Peak Park, replacing a diesel-powered generator at an isolated farm at Wincle. Whilst this could be classed as acceptable, we will be watching carefully to see that it is not taken as a precedent for wider use within the National Park.

There is an application for a large wind farm just outside the Snowdonia National Park at Cefn Croes, mid Wales, and another more acceptable one at Rhondda near a huge opencast coal mine. The proposal for eight wind turbines alongside the Staffordshire Way at Abbots Bromley is more disturbing and we are keeping an eye on developments there.

Otherwise, the move to more and larger wind farms seems to be directed offshore, with developments scheduled for the coast near Prestatyn and Morecambe Bay, well away from footpaths.

The proposed re-opening of the Buxton to Matlock rail line is of direct interest as it will affect the Monsal Trail. A feasibility study for the £100 million scheme is under way and should surface by the year's end. We are assured that environmental issues will be given due consideration and the practical work will not start for several years yet.

Finally, **please all take note:** Section 63 of the Rights of Way Act is now in force, requiring all local authorities to fund and properly maintain their RoW networks. Any member of the public will be able to serve notice on the local council to have an obstruction removed or risk facing an appearance in the magistrate's court.



In July PNFS officers joined RA members in a 'Mini Mass Trespass' on a blocked footpath through a farm in Peel Hall, Manchester

CONSULTATIONS and ORDERS

Peter Crofts

The year 2002 has been another busy one for the 'Monday Team' of assessors who are collectively responsible for deciding actions to be taken on the many proposals for footpath alterations received each week from Highway Authorities.

We were very sorry indeed to lose in September the services of Charles Peers who had been an assessor for 24 years. Charles, who was also at one time an active erector of Peak & Northern signposts and more recently took charge of ticket sales for the Annual Dinner, was a most congenial companion and an invaluable source of footpath information. The best wishes of all at Taylor House went with him in his move with other members of his family to Northumbria.

The Society received nearly 3,000 items of post during 2002, about two-thirds of which concerned footpath changes. As always, many required no comment but many 'Standard Planning Letters' were sent to authorities who consulted us about planning applications which might affect footpaths.

Holding objections were entered whilst consulting our footpath inspector for the area concerned. Mutually satisfactory solutions were often reached after site visits leading to withdrawal of the initial holding objection. Some cases take much longer, sometimes several years, and a few lead to public inquiries although authorities try to avoid these because of their expense.

This says a great deal about Leslie in that he was willing to become involved when others weren't.

Four objections by the Society have gone to inquiries during 2002. Three of these are dealt with in Adrian Littleton's report on page 8. The other concerned the reclassification of Marple footpaths 160 and 161 as bridleways to which we objected because the path included the narrow 'Roman Bridge'. Stockport MBC were against reclassification, because of the historic and aesthetic value and the fragility of the bridge, but felt that the evidence of use by horses would prevail. This proved to be so in spite of our forcibly presented arguments, but it was a pyrrhic victory for the horseriders since, as soon as the report of the Inquiry was published, Stockport put on a Traffic Restriction Order prohibiting the use of the new bridleway by horses!

Highway Authorities often wish to designate new cycle paths in urban areas, sometimes along existing footpaths. Although pedestrians may benefit by an improved surface and possibly by street lighting, it has been the custom that a numbered path regraded in this way lost its definitive status. After objections from the Society in several cases where this was likely to happen, Lancashire County Council have now agreed this is not necessary and it is hoped to persuade other highway authorities to act similarly. Although they have often been seen as adversaries, it is my experience that officials in town halls and their footpath officers are both keen to reach mutually amicable solutions. Footpath officers can be very helpful in the many areas where we do not have inspectors by visiting proposed diversions and suggesting alternatives or explaining features which are not apparent from the map.

The value of the efforts made and the advice given by our inspectors cannot be exaggerated. Without them, it would be impossible for assessors to deal with many proposals. We are also very grateful for help which we receive from local footpath societies and from members of the Ramblers' Association. Nevertheless, the Society would very much prefer to have our own footpath inspectors, or agents in more remote regions where the areas allocated are considerably larger, in the very large number of civil parishes where we presently have none.

The situation in particular areas can change quite suddenly; until a couple of years ago our coverage of Staffordshire was confined to the Staffordshire Moorlands parishes in the north where we had several good inspectors whilst in the rest of the county we had nothing. The sudden appearance of a volunteer agent for the rest of Staffordshire, to whom much of the administration for the area has since been devolved, has transformed the position and Staffordshire is now one of the Society's best covered areas. Potential volunteers can get some idea of where they might be needed by perusing the lists on pages 20-23, although a more up-to-date picture of the current situation can

be obtained from Bob Dumbarton who is in charge of the recruitment and training of footpath inspectors and agents.

Volunteers as assessors would also be most welcome. Although the advent of the new filing system (see last year's report) has increased Assessors' productivity to the extent that the need for a second assessing day has disappeared, we are all getting older. Society members in their sixties or early seventies who can assist on Monday mornings would be welcomed with open arms.

After the assessors have done their work, letters to the highway authorities and our inspectors have to be composed. We have an excellent volunteer typist who takes most letters from dictation and deals with everything thereafter. I took over the drafting of letters two years ago at short notice, but would now be very grateful for others to join me in a small group so that we could divide the duties and cover for holiday absences.

Volunteers with basic word processing skills, on either the Society's computers or their own machines, would be particularly useful since they could occasionally type letters when the typist is ill or on holiday. But computer illiteracy should not deter anyone interested.

The Society's Slide Lecture

about the history and work of the Society is being reorganised but should be ready for presentation to interested parties later in the year



MATTERS from the MINUTES

January

- Several new and returning volunteers join the Taylor House team
- We missed the free issue of Open Access consultation maps but officers review them at the public roadshows instead

February

- An affiliated society asks if PNFS is the power it used to be.
- The outdoor press continue to publicise our activities
- Where are the Society's archives ~ in Manchester City Library

March

- We get involved in the Leigh Busway project
- The Society plans to commemorate the life of Benny Rothman (*this offer is subsequently declined by his family*)
- Windfarms lose their appeal in Denmark ~ is the UK next?

April

- An EGM votes to change our Constitution ~ next step is to secure the agreement of the Charities Commission
- The 2001 report shows there was a welcome increase in number of members
- All existing officers stand for re-election and we gain an additional elected Signpost Officer (Admin)

May

- New inspector appointed
- The Derek Taylor memorial signpost is erected ...



- Local societies donate their winding up funds ~ we are very grateful
- Concern over the introduction of cycleways ~ will we lose our footpaths?

June

- The Society's Secretary resigns but not before he organises.....
- a very successful Footpaths Practitioners Conference ~ thank you Adrian
- PNFS decides to support residents if they want alleygating
- The officers announce they are considering 'downsizing' the Society

July

- Cheshire CC want our help to trace 'lost ways'
- A peaceful demonstration is held at Heald Green, Manchester
- We encourage donations towards refurbishing toilets at Taxal, Derbyshire

August

- Signposts awaiting planting grow in numbers ~ we wonder what goes on in the garage at Taylor House
- Our once a month mid-week led walks continue to attract large numbers of supporters
- The revised filing system is proving extremely helpful at Taylor House

September

- Council votes against 'downsizing' but officers continue their deliberations
- Identity badges are offered to inspectors and agents
- A valued, long serving assessor moves north with his family and bids farewell

October

- Members continue to represent the Society on a wide range of footpath related forums and councils
- The number of signposts awaiting planting is growing
- A Courts & Inquiries Officer is appointed by the other officers ~ welcome aboard Harry Scott

November

- The Taylor House stock of maps is reviewed and updated
- A signpost for Buxton Rambling Club's Diamond Jubilee is erected in Chinley...



- Members invited to comment on the 'downsizing' proposal
- Views conflict over Lancashire's proposals for cycleways

December

- Process for keeping Inspectors informed of footpath changes to be reviewed
- Membership numbers at year end show a disappointing downward trend
- We hope sponsorship of our *Signpost* newsletter will be renewed
- A further five signposts erected

SIGNPOST OFFICER

Bill Johnson

Leander Foundry have produced a large number of signs for us this year. These have mainly been new dedicated signs with a smaller number of replacements.

A combination of events led to a backlog of work on these signs. Fortunately, a splendid response of help came from officers, affiliated organisations and, as ever, the Rangers. I am extremely grateful for their valuable work.

New signs erected

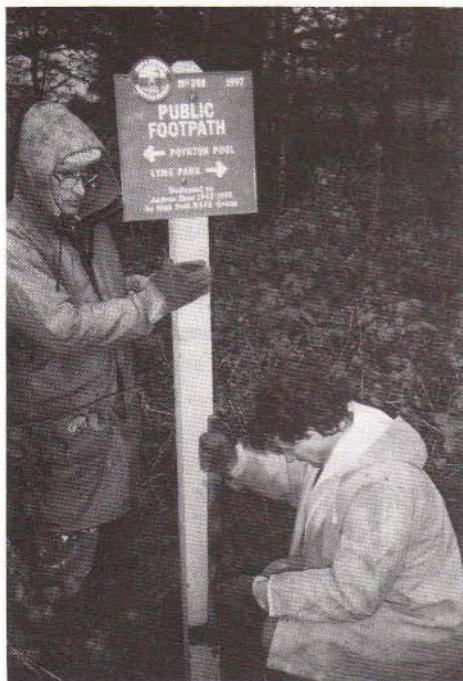
<i>Ref No.</i>	<i>GR</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>details</i>
SP275	021947	Dinting	Longdendale & Glossop FPS
SP278	048831	Chinley	Buxton Rambling Club 60th anniversary
SP279	644161	Anglezarke	Memorial to Derek Taylor
SP280	014867	Hayfield	In memory of Amy & Philip Riley
SP283	764739	Haslingden	PNFS
SP284	754222	Haslingden	Trafford Walkers for Bert Lord

New signs to be erected

SP274	091578	Manifold Valley	In memory of Denis Skidmore
SP276	285798		In memory of William G Blake
SP281	017890	Rowarth	New Mills RA
SP282	714156	Turton	International Tramping Tours
SP285	tba	Hayfield	In memory of Arthur Buckley
SP286	tba	Hayfield	Manchester Associates

Repairs & maintenance

SP14	145864	Edale	Painted sign
SP38	182826	Brough	Painted sign
SP93	163843	Hope	Painted sign
SP95	034764	White Hall	Painted sign
SP103	003693	Sparbent	Painted sign
SP147	015729	Goyt Valley	Painted sign/fixed new plaque
SP185	045783	Coombes	Replaced metal finger
SP187	097855	Upper Booth	New replacement sign
SP188	035723	Burbage	Painted sign
SP157	983794	Charles Head	New replacement sign
SP200	995739	Shining Tor	New replacement sign
SP202	009983	Arnfield	New replacement sign
	976695	Shutlingslow	damaged indicator refurbished and reset



A wet day in a wood near Poynton

Members erecting SP275 at Dinting for the Longendale & Glossop Footpath Society



Re-installing the repaired memorial panorama plaque on the summit of Shutlingslow after vandalism

This plaque was dedicated to Arthur Smith, a former General Secretary of the Society, in 1978



Volunteers wanted

Able bodied assistance needed to form a rota to erect signposts. We regret we are unable to obtain insurance cover for this work and, therefore, volunteers are expected to obtain their own accident cover.

SIGNPOST ADMIN SEC

Fred Ogden

As you will see from the list on page 2, there are two signpost officers. My role is to deal with enquiries from individuals and societies who wish to have a signpost dedicated by them, usually as a memorial to a loved one or to commemorate an anniversary.

It is useful for me to know in which area the post is required as it can take a long time to identify the owners of the land and to receive their written agreement for us to erect the post.

When this stage has been reached, I then order the plate and the commemorative plaque and these are sent to Bill Johnson who does all the necessary painting and fixing of these items on to the post.

It has proved difficult over recent years to have sufficient voluntary workers to erect these posts and the Society would like volunteers to come forward to assist with this as the cost of using outside contractors could make it rather an expensive exercise.

By the way, any potential donor should bear in mind that it is not usual for us to erect posts where it is the responsibility of the highway authority to waymark ~ such as by the roadside.



Members of Trafford Walkers at Calf Head Reservoir, near Haslingden, where they helped to erect their memorial signpost in December

TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith Wykes

The Society is valued at just over £0.2 million ~ refer to Balance Sheet and Funds of the Society (opposite).

This has necessitated a major revamp of the presentation of the Accounts to more readily and easily identify *Income Streams* matched against Expenditure, where appropriate, within the Income & Expenditure Statement.

Sources of income can now be seen at a glance.

As a consequence, the 2001 comparison figures are restated.

Total Funds have increased by 9% (£17,199 in 2001 to £21,053 in 2002) arising in the main from the £16,583 Income & Expenditure Statement excess transferred to General Funds.

Notes on Balance Sheet

- **Fixed Asset** values are slightly lower at 1.5% (1.6% in 2001) owing to exhaustion of depreciation charged against particular assets, ie such assets are valued at £nil.

- **Freehold property** is valued at cost

- **Long Term Investment** values at £46,236 (£66,244 in 2001) remained static after allowing for full redemption of our £20,000 deposit with *Providian National Bank UK* upon closure of its deposit taking business.

- **Short Term Investment** values at £101,960 have increased substantially (+55%) so reflecting the reinvestment of *Providian National Bank's* deposit (plus £1,182 ex gratia payment advanced in lieu of early redemption) and the £10,693 legacy proceeds investment short term (ie less than five years).

- **Debtors** £2,492 (£516 in 2001) comprise ~

Tax refund provisions for the two years ended 5 April 2002	£1,680
Hampshire Trust Class A Preference Share Dividend for the quarter ended 31 December 2002	£406
Uninvoiced (by signpost teams) signposts	£406

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2002

		2002	2001
ASSETS			
Fixed	Freehold property at cost	60,153	60,153
	Furniture, fixtures & fittings	531	1,141
	Computer equipment	41	372
		60,725	61,666
Investments	Long Term (at market value)		
	UK equities	26,648	27,508
	Government stock	19,588	18,736
	Deposit	--	20,000
		46,236	66,244
	Short Term		
	Hampshire Trust 12 Month Notice Deposit	77,523	42,874
	Cafcash High Interest cheque	23,123	21,250
	Royal Bank of Scotland • Bus. High Interest	861	1,090
	• Current	150	150
	Skipton BS Matured Instant Access	100	100
	Leeds & Holbeck BS Charityline	100	100
	Cash & postages float	103	110
		101,960	65,674
Debtors	• Tax refund due	1,680	516
	• Other	952	--
		2,492	516
	Badge stock on hand	95	104
		211,508	194,204
LIABILITIES	Funds	204,488	187,289
	Ten year membership suspense	4,898	5,044
	Five year membership suspense	2,073	1,856
	(Creditors &) advance subscriptions 2002/3	49	15
Total liabilities		211,508	194,204

Keith D Wykes

Honorary Treasurer, Trustee and a Principal Officer

19 February 2002

FUNDS of the SOCIETY as at 31 December 2002

figures are £

Fund name	2002	donations	transfers	expenditure	2001
General	168,464	541		(1,614)	152,954
transfer from I&E a/c			16,583		
Defence	20,448	71	1,648		18,729
MIRR§	10,849		(7)		10,856
Development	2,105	7		(190)	2,288
Signpost	1,708	1,241		(1,310)	1,777
Memorial Funds					
LG Meadowcroft	664	664			--
H E Wild footbridge	250				250
D Taylor	--	75	(17)	(493)	435
	204,488	2,599	18,207	(3,607)	187,289

notes

General Funds of the Society have increased by 10%: £15,510 (2001: 6% : £9,596) including £16,583 contributed by the *Income & Expenditure Account* surplus.

- The **Defence Fund** benefited by donations and transfers, in the main from *General Fund*, in accordance with Council policy of maintaining the *Defence Fund* balance at 10% of total fund balances.
- § 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 Long Term, ie indefinitely or until maturity; values were static in 2002 compared with 2001.
- The **Development Fund** is closed to new donations; the £2,105 balance held represents the residual balance remaining from funds raised to purchase Taylor House Office Equipment, etc. £190 of expenditure has been charged to this fund as it has arisen.
- Whilst the **Signpost Fund** has again benefited from your very generous donations £1,241 (£1,197 in 2001) including the £25 Auction Sale proceeds of a defective SP plate at Annual Dinner, marginally less expenditure of £1,310 (£1,376 in 2001) relating to signpost erection and maintenance were incurred mainly as a result of utilising the services of an outside contractor. As these increased costs may become significant in 2003, the plea to donors is to make the Signpost Fund your number one donation priority.

Memorial Funds

- The **LG Meadowcroft** (late President) Memorial Fund opened during the year has a balance of £664. Memorials along the Cown Edge Way are being considered together with revision and reprinting of the *Cown Edge Way Guide*.
- Now that a magnificent Memorial Signpost has been erected on Anglezarke Moor (SP No. 279 GR644161) IMO our late General Secretary, the **Derek Taylor Memorial Fund** is now closed; this was achieved by transferring the £16.63 surplus to our Signpost Fund.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE for the year ended 31 December 2002

INCOME	2002	2001	EXPENDITURE	2001	2000
General Income			Taylor House:		
Legacies	10,693	17,309	•Running costs	2,454	2,146
Donations	2,599	1,915	•Depreciation	943	1,002
Tax refund (due)			Travel	1,715	1,411
Gift Aid and General	1,381	516	Newsletter	1,078	926
Newsletter sponsorship	1,000	825	Annual Report	748	898
Advertising	390	787	Computer consumables	405	810
Trailer & generator sales	180	--	Stationery & printing	645	774
Affiliation service	95	100	Postages	667	586
Grants: FP inspectors' conf	415	--	Photocopying (net)	211	502
Sundry	86	56	Telephones	278	274
Lecture fees	20	55	Maps	245	3
Total	16,859	21,563	Newspapers & publications	46	177
less transfers to			Subscriptions & insurances	324	144
Funds statement	(2,599)	(1,915)	Room hire	60	72
			FP inspectors conference	482	--
			Sundries	44	135
Total General Income	14,260	19,648	Total expenditure	10,345	9,860
Investment Income	7,463	6,757	Excess of income over expenditure		
Tax refund due (specific)	510	--	Transfer to Gen Funds	16,583	21,393
Total invest income	6,757	5,886			
Subscription income					
Annual	1,584	1,722			
Ten year transfers	1,178	1,244			
Five year transfers	854	766			
Junior	4	6			
Affiliations	1,075	1,110			
Total subs income	4,695	4,848			
Total income	26,928	31,253		26,928	31,253

Income & Expenditure Account - notes

- The annual surplus of £16,583 is 22% (£4,810) lower than in 2001 (£21,393 adjusted).
- A statement overview reveals that, as a proportion of £26,928 total income, the Society's *Income Stream* contributions are General (53%), Investment (30%), Subscriptions (17%)
- **General Income** has fallen by 27% due in the main to reduced *Legacies* income ~ generally being one off occurrences, but offset by increases in *Donations*, *Tax Refunds* and *Newsletter Sponsorship*.
- **Advertising income** reflects the loss of the FAS distribution contract.
- **Investment income** has risen by 18% as a result of increased volume (£) invested, £1,182 the ex gratia payment mentioned earlier and the Society's policy of investing in secure high interest rated products, all at a time when interest rates generally are in the doldrums.
- **Subscription income** has fallen marginally (3%).
- **Expenditure** at £10,345 (£9,860 in 2001) has risen marginally (5%). To some extent it is worrying that the *Income & Expenditure Statement* shows clearly that this total expenditure cannot be met from Subscription Income (£4,695) alone. In any year the Society needs to generate income from streams other than Subscriptions.

Whilst general increases may be expected under certain cost heads~ Taylor House running costs, Travel, Newsletter and Postages, your attention is drawn to the following reductions ~ Annual Report, Stationery & Printing, Computer consumables, Photocopier, Room hire, Newspapers & publications and Sundries.

- Note the £67 excess of Expenditure over Grant Income received regarding the Footpath Inspectors' Conference.
- I am pleased to report the huge increase in Maps expenditure resulting from 'Chartec' discount promotion.

My Honorary Treasurer, Trustee, Principal Officer status

Over the years there has been a steady increase in workload volumes associated with the managing and giving of advice to fellow trustees, officers and members in all matters financial.

I now put in an **urgent** plea to all with a flair in numeracy, including those willing to learn, to offer themselves for the Assistant Treasurer's post by making themselves known now to our Chairman, Derek Seddon, at Taylor House or home (0161 428 6137) and myself, again at Taylor House or home (01625 618164).

As fellow trustees/officers and some other members are aware already, I am unwilling to stand for re-election as Honorary Treasurer if I will then be the only trustee. I cannot be expected to continue soldiering on in the Honorary Treasurer's post without assistance.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Normally the Independent Examiner's Report is included in the main part of this Annual Report but this year will be included as an insert

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 31st December 2002.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under Section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act);
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the 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 the 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 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 1993 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act

have not been met.

Included in UK Equities of £26,648 at the balance sheet date is a holding of 25,000 £1 Non-Redeemable Class A Preference Shares in Hampshire Trust plc. This investment is shown at a market value equal to its cost of £25,000. The Society also held funds of £77,523 in a Twelve Month Notice Account with Hampshire Trust plc at the balance sheet date. The shares of Hampshire Trust plc are neither listed nor quoted on a recognised stock exchange. The latest available audited accounts of Hampshire Trust plc are for the year ended 30th April 2002 and at that date its consolidated balance sheet showed net assets of £4,744,093.

No other matter has come to my attention in connection with my examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

(signed) Elizabeth Hudson ACA

18th March 2003

Bradley Fold, Woodford Lane, Newton, Macclesfield

Looking at the membership figures for 2002, it will be seen that new Annual Members more than compensated for those lost by non renewal. It is in the 10-year section that our losses have been greatest.

The loss of members, whether Annual, 5-year or 10-year saddens me, but I do appreciate that among our older friends there will be those who feel that they cannot 'sign on' for another ten years. We must respect their feelings on this matter but may I point out the savings to be made on taking out the 10-year membership? If they still feel unable to make this commitment I do hope that they will consider the 5-year option.

Let me say that, whether your membership is Annual, 5-year or 10-year, I do along with my fellow officers sincerely appreciate the support you give. My job satisfaction is enhanced when the renewals start to arrive.

Over the past 12 months we have suffered the loss of our President, two honorary life members and other long serving members, all of whom rendered many years of service to the Society.

May I conclude by once again expressing my deepest appreciation and thanks for the continuing and most generous support given by individual members and affiliated societies.



	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Annual	339	318	298	306	316
Ten year	571	556	468	428	388
Five year	79	117	146	180	177
Honorary Life	10	11	14	14	15
Junior	4	3	3	3	2
total	1003	1005	929	931	898
Affiliates	89	85	85	84	81

AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Alderley Edge, Wilmslow &
 District FP Society
 Altrincham & District
 Rambling Club
 Ashton-u-Lyne & District
 Walking Club
 Barlborough Parish Council
 Barnsley
 Mountaineering Club
 Bayhorse Homewatch &
 Residents Association
 Blackbrook
 Conservation Society
 Bolton
 CHA Rambling Club
 Buxton Field Club
 Buxton Rambling Club
 C A E ~ Rambling Club
 CHA Manchester
 Rambling Club
 CHA Mansfield
 CHA Nottingham
 Rambling Club
 CHA Oldham & District
 Rambling Club
 CHA Sheffield (B Section)
 Rambling & Social Club
 Chapel-en-le-Frith
 Amenity Society
 Cheadle Hulme & Bramhall
 Natural History Society
 Cheshire Tally Ho
 Hare & Hounds Club
 Club AZ Walkers
 Crescent Ramblers
 Northwich
 Derbyshire Footpaths
 Preservation Society
 Derbyshire Pennine Club
 Eccles
 Rambling & Social Club
 Eyam Village Society
 Geriatrics Group

Hanliensian
 Rambling Club
 Bolton Group
 HF Bury Group
 HF Manchester Group
 HF Nottingham Group
 HF Warrington
 Rambling Club
 High Lane
 Residents Association
 Leek & District FP
 Preservation & Rambling
 Group
 Littleborough Civic Trust
 Longendale & Glossopdale
 FP Preservation Society
 Macclesfield & District
 Field Club
 Macclesfield
 Rambling Club
 Manchester & District
 Retired Teachers Assn
 Manchester Associates
 Rambling Club
 Manchester Field Club
 Manchester
 Pedestrian Club
 Manchester
 Rambling Club
 Marple Community Council
 Marple District
 Rambling Club
 Marple Naturalists
 Mellor Society
 Mid Cheshire
 Footpath Society
 North Western
 Naturalists Union
 Pennine Wayfarers
 Rambling Club
 Poynton Rambling Club
 RA Bolton Group
 RA Congleton Group
 RA East Cheshire Area

RA Manchester Area
 RA New Mills Group
 RA North & Mid Cheshire
 Area
 RA Oldham Group
 RA Sheffield Group
 RA South Yorks &
 NE Derbyshire Area
 RA Stockport Group
 Rochdale CHA Ramblers
 Romiley Townswomen's
 Guild Walking Group
 Rucksack Club
 Sale U3A Walking Club
 Sheffield Clarion Ramblers
 Sheffield Co-op Party
 Rambling Club
 Sheffield U3A
 Walking Goup 'A'
 Shirland & Higham
 Parish Council
 Stockport & District
 Federation of TWGs
 Stockport East Area
 Bridleways Association
 Stockport Field Club
 Stockport
 Rambling & Social Club
 Stockport Walkers
 Sutton-in-Ashfield
 Rambling Club
 The Mellor Society
 The Moorsiders (Urmston)
 Rambling Group
 The Scramblers
 Rambling Club
 The Wayfarers
 Rambling Club
 Toc H Matlock
 West Lancashire
 Footpath Group
 YHA Central Region
 YHA Stockport