



# Chairman's Report

## *David Bratt*

The top line is that 2006 was another good year for our PNFS. We have managed to secure a pleasing mix of the consolidation of some recent initiatives along with growth in other areas of our activity.

Three years ago when I became your Chairman I said there were matters of a domestic nature to attend to in parallel with our prime remit of the defence of our precious footpath heritage. Three specific objectives were set and it is timely now to review progress.

The first was to grow our then declining membership which was around 840 to 1100 in 3 years. Our 2006 year end membership stands at 1217 so we are well past the winning post but our recruitment horse must not be reined in. Its all been done and will keep being done through a balanced mix of the Society lecture/our signposts – our silent ambassadors/our new leaflet/our website/our bridges and press publicity. We have some new initiatives for 2007 – a stall at the Cheshire Show and the targeting of Parish Councils.

Second was a 5 year objective to move from around 220 signposts to 400. This will not be achieved – that is unless we make it the Society's one and only crusade which is clearly unacceptable. The workload involved in a single new post spread across all the signpost team members is way beyond my assumptions back in 2003 and it is to the teams immense credit that in the last year some 20 posts (brand new/tubular replacements and refurbished) were planted. However in part mitigation I should record our success in the progressing and funding of new bridges not planned back in 2003 with 3 installed in 2006 and 5 already committed to for this year. In this area we are investing serious money to benefit the walking public as part of our Charitable remit.

The final objective was to raise the profile and good name of the PNFS with the general public. Maybe not easy to quantify but the calls and letters we get at Taylor House, the positive reaction to the illustrated lectures, the feed back from many people we speak to and the press coverage we get strongly suggest our name is getting more widely known and it commands respect.

There is a song that opines that "2 out of 3 ain't bad " and whilst I would suggest we are worth a 3 year score of 2.5 out of 3 its healthy to accept a report that says - Good, Improving, Full Potential not yet reached!

In the year gone 2 of our long serving and long contributing Officers stood down namely Ernest Sutton and Keith Wykes and I use this opportunity also to thank them again on behalf of us all.





The key to the management of the Society is our monthly Officers meeting for which we always have a more than full agenda of issues to discuss and usually resolve. They are lively affairs with the meetings formally minuted. Copies of the minutes go to all Agents/Inspectors and are available on file at Taylor House should any member wish to view them. We will at the AGM bring forward a revised Constitution for the meeting to hopefully approve the many revisions that are principally necessary to reflect the fact that Council which was previously part of the management of the Society no longer functions.

The 4 trustees of the Society also meet a few times through the year to bring to the Officers meeting their views on major financial matters for approval or modification. We have as a Society and a Charity a fundamental issue to address. Our total financial assets are increasing yet our Expenditure way exceeds Income. The (most welcome) cause is the legacies we receive which in the last few years have more than compensated for the overspends. Your Trustees have come to the conclusion after no little argument and debate that it is timely for more prudence to be adopted and you all know what that means – an increase in Annual subscriptions not I hasten to add this year but the meeting will be asked to debate and vote on new rates to take effect in 2008. Members who can't attend are invited to write to me to express their views which will be put to the meeting.

On a less solemn subject I can report that our walks – short ones now (thanks Clarke) as well as long are very well established. We have a great group of enthusiastic leaders, my thanks to all. Attendees now average at least 10 – the record is with David Morton who recently attracted 17 thanks to co-conspirator Fred Ogden turning up with a charabanc(?) of Marple members and affiliates. In 2006 we made front page news with our walk to demonstrate that Saddleworth 55 can and must be used despite every blockade known to man that the owner is employing. Some progress has been made with entry and exit points to the farm but the path remains unusable to the general public so back we will go in February 2007.

You may think that there is a lack of reference to footpath matters in general in my report – not because I don't feel passionate and committed to the subject but Roy is our kingpin in such matters be they obstructions, faults, diversions or extinguishments and he excels in his work.

Once again my most appreciative thanks to all our volunteers who do an outstanding job in both our outside world and at Taylor House. You will doubtless want to echo this with your thanks.

Finally we ask of you, our so valued membership – Stay on board. Help us make "can do better yet" a reality and score 3 out of 3!



*Alan Postill*

## PEAK & NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY INCOME & EXPENDITURE TO 31 DEC 2006



### INCOME

	2006	2005
Legacies	£20,729	£11,382
Donations General	£1,263	£839
Signposts	£1,805	£1,519
Gift Aid Reclaimed	£1,193	£2,037
		£1,155
Advertising	£250	£238
Sundry	£218	£163
Sale of Assets	£742	£630
<b>Total</b>	<b>£26,200</b>	<b>£17,963</b>
Interest	£4,190	£3,758
Dividends	£3,937	£3,913
<b>Total</b>	<b>£8,127</b>	<b>£7,671</b>
Subscriptions		
Annual	£2,735	£1,945
5 Year Transfers	£1,572	£1,366
10 Year Transfers	£1,147	£1,090
Affiliations	£776	£1,055
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,230</b>	<b>£5,456</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£40,557</b>	<b>£31,090</b>
	<b>£40,557</b>	

### EXPENDITURE

	2006	2005
Taylor House		
Running Costs	£3,832	£2,800
Depreciation	£2,424	£1,763
Travel & Subsistence	£3,037	£2,940
Printing/Copying (Inc Annual Report)	£3,412	£2,474
Newsletter & Distribution	£2,976	£1,475
Professional Fees	£1,170	£298
Postages	£1,182	£1,112
Telephone	£563	£811
Stationery/Maps/ & Office Supplies	£1,591	£1,493
Insurances	£1,876	£1,564
Functions	£2,900	£1,088
Sundry	£230	£53
Subscriptions	£111	£133
Signpost Expenses	£5,128	£3,819
Footbridge Expenses	£2,120	
Donation	£500	£2,115
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£33,052</b>	<b>£23,938</b>
<b>Excess Income</b>	<b>£7,505.00</b>	<b>£40,557</b>



**The annual surplus of income over expenditure is shown as £7505**, as against a surplus of income over expenditure in 2005 amounting to £7152.

## Income

Once again we have benefited from legacy income, this year totalling £20729 (Compared to £11382 in 2005), from the estates of three deceased benefactors, William Howard, Frank Higgins and Eric Burgum. Their kindness has transformed this year's finances.

The year also shows an increase in income from donations to the Society, (£3068 in 2006 against £2358 in 2005). Both the Signposts and General funds have benefited from the generosity of members when renewing, and from donations made at the series of lectures given by Peter Rhodes. The "special offer" membership fee of £3 offered at these lectures has undoubtedly increased membership and the associated membership income.

There was a small increase in Gift Aid tax refund (£1193 in 2006 compared to £1155 in 2005).

The £742 income attributed to "sale of assets" is the excess made from the sale of the Society's holding of Invensys shares (Sale price £2400, 2005 valuation £1658).

Total income from investments has increased from £7671 in 2005 to £8127 in 2006.

Subscriptions & Affiliations show a substantial increase (£6230 against £5456) reflecting the increase in membership to record levels. However affiliations have fallen from £1055 in 2005 to £776 in 2006 due to the standardisation of affiliation fees.

It should be noted however that total income from subscriptions covers less than 20% of the Society's total expenditure and only 39% of basic running costs (Taylor House costs, travel, insurance, postage and stationery).

Excluding income from legacies, which tend to distort the annual figures, we see overall that income in 2006 totalled £19828 whilst in 2005 it was £19708.

## Expenditure

The Expenditure figures reflect the continued increases being seen in our all round activities. Total expenditure has increased from £23938 in 2005 to £33052 in 2006.

Increased running costs at Taylor House (£3832 from £2800) reflect maintenance to Taylor House, ongoing broadband and web hosting fees and improvements to the computer network. A new fascia for the outside of Taylor House cost £446 broadband/web hosting cost £528 and £235 was spent upgrading and maintaining the computer network. Similarly, having bought new laptop computers and other IT equipment in 2006 the annual depreciation figures increase from £1763 to £2424.

Travel costs (£3037 against £2940 in 2005) do not fully reflect the increased travel associated with the increase in general activity of the Society (more signposts planted, Inspectors Conference during the year). As in 2005, I can only assume that members are supporting our work by choosing not to claim travel expenses.

Printing costs (up to £3412 against £2474 in the previous year) are largely accounted for by an extra

£975 for further improvements to the Annual Report and the cost of new membership leaflets (£450). "Signpost" newsletter costs have increased from £1475 to £2976 reflecting the improvements to the newsletter and longer print runs.

Postages, telephones, stationery, insurances and subscriptions are all very much in line with last year.

Professional fees (£1170) represent the full year cost of minute taking at Officers Meetings introduced in September 2005 and the design of the Society's new website (£600).

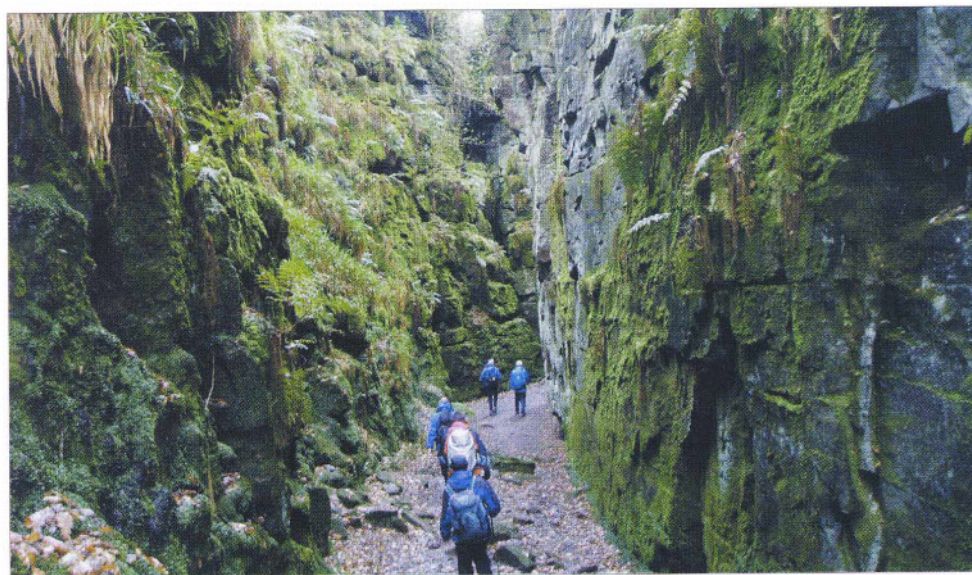
The cost of Functions (£2900 against £1088 in 2005) is made up from the AGM in April, the Inspectors Conference and the Half Year Meeting, both held in November.

Signpost Expenses (£5128 in 2006 against £3819 in 2005) are the direct costs of new and replacement signposts, repair work, and work done for us by a sub-contractor.

Footbridge Expenses are the cost of donations made to local authorities for the provision of footbridges. (Hoo Brook, Grindon £1800 and Tinker Brook £320).

A donation of £500 was made to the Mid Cheshire Footpaths Society towards the publication of the North Cheshire Way Guidebook.

Capital Expenditure in the year has been to finance two new laptop computers – including printer (£2086), replacement flat screen monitor (£218), DVD writer for backup purposes (£187), a GPS location system (£114) and a CAT scanner to locate power cables (£416).



*Lud's Church*



	31-Dec 2006	31-Dec 2005
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Freehold Property at Cost	£60,153	£60,153
Furniture/Fittings/Equipment	£1,007	£1,026
Computer Equipment	£4,808	£4,285
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>		
(Long Term)		
Government Stock	£97,216	£102,368
UK Equities	£3,207	£4,347
(Short Term)		
Hampshire Trust 12m Notice		£14,309
Alliance & Leicester	£111	£30,000
CafCash Deposit Account	£104,739	£49,010
CafCash High Interest Cheque	£2,086	£4,066
Skipton BS	£100	£100
Leeds & Holbeck BS	£100	£100
Petty Cash/Postages	£8	£140
<b>DEBTORS</b>	£1,253	£1,905
<b>Assets total</b>	<b>£274,788</b>	<b>£271,809</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Creditors		£22
5 Year Members Susp	£3,869	£3,047
10 Year Members Susp	£6,255	£6,140
<b>Liabilities total</b>	<b>£10,124</b>	<b>£9,209</b>
<b>Assets less Liabilities</b>	<b>£264,664</b>	<b>£262,600</b>
<b>Funds</b>		
General	£216,719	£205,618
Def	£26,466	£26,260
Signpost	£3,399	£26,722
Footbridge	£17,880	
LG Meadowcroft		£2,000
Mary Chambers	£200	£2,000
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£264,664</b>	<b>£262,600</b>



## Balance Sheet Notes

### ASSETS

#### Fixed Assets

At a value of £65971 net of depreciation against £65464 last year reflects the new computer and other equipment purchased less depreciation to date. Taylor House is valued at a "cost" basis as in previous years.

Long Term Investments (£100423 from £106715 in 2005) show decreases in valuations in Government Stocks (£97216 compared to 102368 in 2005) and Equities (£3207 compared to £4347 in 2005). The decrease in the valuation of Equities is due to the sale the Society's holdings of Invensys shares (2005 valuation £1658), in accordance with a decision taken by the Trustees during 2006.

Short Term Investments: The bulk of our cash (totalling £104739) is now held on immediate access, interest bearing accounts with CAF Bank, a subsidiary of Charities Aid Foundation.

The £14309 on 12 month notice accounts with Hampshire Trust has been redeemed and moved to the CafCash deposit account. The £30000 12 month bond invested with Alliance & Leicester in June 2005 has been redeemed and invested in the CafCash deposit account. A balance of £111 remains in the account.

Debtors at the year end are £1014 accrued 2006/07 Gift Aid and £238 tax refund due on the Alliance and Leicester interest. Total assets at the Year End amount to £274788 against £271809 at the end of 2005.

### LIABILITIES

5 and 10 Year Membership Suspense Accounts totalling £10124 (against £9187 at the end of 2005) show more members taking advantage of the discounts available by committing to longer than annual membership.

ASSETS £274788 less LIABILITIES £10124 leaves FUNDS totalling £264664 (£262600 in 2005)

#### Fund Notes are:

These Funds are shown separately but inter-fund transfers in the year have been:

Signpost Fund: Specific donations to this fund and spending from it are shown separately as £1805 and £5128 respectively. Spending in this area has shown a significant increase during the year (Up from £3819 in 2005) reflecting the additional effort being made by the Society in this area.

Footbridge Fund: In accordance with a decision taken by the Society's officers, a new fund has been created during 2006 by transferring £20000 from the Signpost Fund. During the year £2120 has been donated for the provision of footbridges.

Defence Fund remains at 10% of total funds and transfers have been made to maintain this. There has been no expenditure against this fund in 2006.

The Leslie Meadowcroft Fund has been closed, and the Mary Chambers Memorial Fund has been reduced to £200 to cover anticipated costs.



General Fund (after transfers to Footbridge, Signpost & Defence Funds) and benefiting from the surplus income and changes to investments valuations shows at £216,719 (from £205,618 at 31.12.2005)

Acknowledgement

Special thanks are due to my predecessor, Barry Starkie, for his guidance and support both in the preparation of these accounts and throughout the year.

## STATEMENT OF FUNDS AT 31 DEC 2006

FUNDS	Opening	From I&E	Donations	Expenditure	Transfers	Year End
GENERAL	£205,618	£7,505			-206	
Reduced Valuations to Investments					£8,443	
See Income/Exp 2006					-£4,641	<b>£216,719</b>
DEFENCE	£26,260				£206	<b>£26,466</b>
SIGNPOST	£26,722		£1,805 (see Income/Exp 2006)	£5,128	-£20,000	<b>£3,399</b>
FOOTBRIDGE			(see Income/Exp 2006)	£2,120	£20,000	<b>£17,880</b>
<b>Memorial Funds</b>						
M Chambers	£2,000				-£1,800	<b>£200</b>
LG Meadowcroft	£2,000			£800	-£1,200	<b>£0</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£262,600</b>	<b>£7,505</b>	<b>£1,805</b>	<b>£8,048</b>	<b>£802</b>	<b>£264,664</b>