



**PEAK & NORTHERN  
FOOTPATHS SOCIETY**

**HELPING WALKERS  
PROTECTING FOOTPATHS**

# **PEAK & NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY**



## **ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2010**



## Annual Report 2009

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Registered Charity No. 212219

***Front Cover - Our team at the Bridestones Inquiry.  
Standing L to R: Harry Scott, Adrian Littleton, John Harker, Rhoda Barnett, David Bratt, Terry Norris.  
Seated: Alan Soper***

***Back Cover - River Beal before and after photos.***

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# Officers and other Taylor House Volunteers (as at 31st December 2010)

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David Bratt  
Terry Norris  
Clarke Rogerson  
Alistair Taylor

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Ted Wolfe

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Hilda Bowler

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David C Brown (editor  
and typesetter)  
Judy Brown (proofreader)

## **WEBSITE MANAGER**

Geoff Errington

## **OFFICE VOLUNTEERS**

Jean Arnett  
Suzanne Clarke  
June Mabon  
Jerzy Matuszewski  
Margaret Matuszewski  
Brian Summerscales  
David Tattersall  
David Williamson  
Ted Wolfe

## **HONORARY EXAMINER**

Liz Hudson

## **PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY**

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THIS IS YOUR INVITATION  
TO THE AGM OF THE PNFS

*Sat April 30th*  
AT

BRITANNIA HOTEL, DIALSTONE LANE,  
OFFERTON, STOCKPORT

AMPLE FREE CAR PARKING IS AVAILABLE  
NUMBER 383 BUS FROM STOCKPORT OR MARPLE STATION STOPS OUTSIDE  
SERVICE 192 BUSES FREQUENTLY AVAILABLE AT NEARBY A6

10:30 COFFEE, TEA, BISCUITS

11:00 AGM COMMENCES

12:30 HOT BUFFET LUNCH (Donations welcome)  
BAR FACILITIES

14:00 AGM CONTINUES

14:30 OPEN FORUM

15:30 MEETING CLOSES

To reserve your place at the AGM kindly inform  
David Brown Email [pnfs.meetings@gmail.com](mailto:pnfs.meetings@gmail.com) or  
Phone 01663 733236 as soon as possible  
and no later than April 22nd as we have to give one weeks  
notice of the numbers to the Hotel

Thank you



# President's Report

## **David Bratt**

Our onward and upward movement in membership numbers ended with our first 3-figure decline for many years, but we are not immune from what goes on in the world outside and when belts get tightened it's understandable that we also feel the pain. We will certainly strive to keep up to or exceed the 1,400 total mark, as we have for the last 4 years.

To pave the way for introducing the long-sought-after voluntary direct debit option in a manageable and effective form, the decision was taken to end the availability of 5 and 10 year memberships. Another telling argument was that if our finances further deteriorate, then any funding requirement should be shared equally by all the membership. We nevertheless owe a profound debt of gratitude to all those 5- and 10-year members who were prepared to support the Society with a long-term commitment at a time when we were financially awash but struggling to grow the membership base.

Once again Clarke and his officer team have done the Society proud in the time and effort they put into all the activities we pursue as part of our shared commitment to the footpath cause. I would in particular highlight the dedication of our Signpost Officer David Morton. David, I suspect, believes we are essentially a Signpost Society and the rest is a sideshow!! With that thinking no wonder he so enthuses those he meets to sponsor signs or bewitches landowners into signing consent documents!!

Concerning footpath matters, in the past year I have carried out 4 "flying squad" visits to paths with diversion proposals. All the proposals were acceptable (some with minor conditions), but we had to take Lancashire CC severely to task, for on 3 of these proposals they had not mentioned in their paperwork that it was impossible to walk the definitive line. Our message has been received loud and clear.

I expect in the coming year the West Lancs Dalton 29 diversion we are opposing will come to Public Inquiry, where I will give evidence. Hopefully we will get a better outcome than Cheshire West's Horton in Peel FPs 2 /3 /4, which we lost—it was determined that the apparent requirements of a Racehorse Training Licence were worth reducing safety and impairing the view of Peel Hall from the Baker Way. We were the only FP society to oppose the Order, others adopting a neutral or observer-only stance. Again, in the very recent Bosley FP claim we were the only FP society to put our principles and money where our mouth is. Members — you can walk tall!

As you will have read in Signpost, the first news about the Walks for All project was posted on our website by 1st December as promised, thanks to the great endeavours of Gilly Gostick and Mike Barnes.

So all in all it's been another good year for your Society, with thanks to all who have contributed in the field or office. The nut we have to crack this year is the replacement of Chairman Clarke, but I have every reason to believe a creative solution will emerge – because that's what PNFS does best!



## **Clarke Rogerson**

Saturday 12th March 2011 is a date that will be etched in my mind for ever. I'd planned to write my piece for the annual report and was pondering what I would report as the highlights for the year. After breakfast I took a stroll to clear my thoughts; on my return the answer phone was flashing. Adrian Littleton's voice informed me that the Planning Inspector had recommended confirmation of the Definitive Map Modification Order for Congleton 82, albeit with a slight amendment.

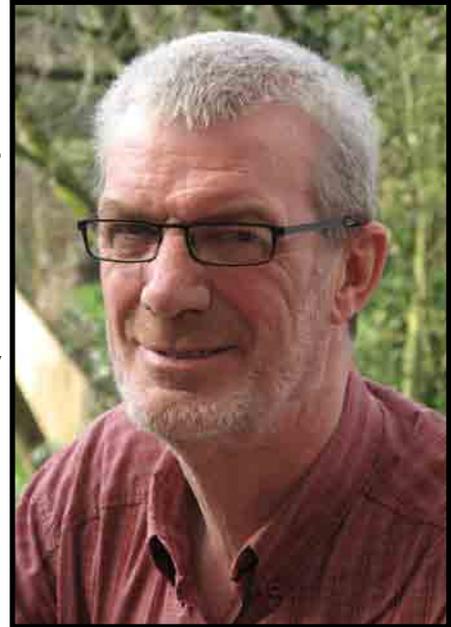
Congleton 82, perhaps better known as the Bridestones Path, ranks alongside Bottom's Path and the Snake Path. Each of these paths marks an important milestone in our Society's history. The story is not quite complete and is far too long to report all the detail here. For now I would like to offer a vote of thanks to two members who have made success possible: Alan Soper and Adrian Littleton. Alan has been pursuing the claim for this path for many years, and he asked for our support, both financial and legal, to progress the claim. He has worked tirelessly to gather information and witness statements.

He was also the star witness at the Public Inquiry. Adrian Littleton took on the task of managing the case on behalf of the Society. He arranged to obtain Counsel's opinion and ensured all was done that needed doing on the lead-up to the Inquiry. Thanks to their combined efforts, we will soon be able to finally close this case and enjoy walking the path instead of talking about it.

Holdworth Farm, in the Parish of Bradfield, is perhaps a little overshadowed by the Bridestones news, but we should not underestimate our achievements on this one. We did not have to fight for the right to walk this path, as it had been dedicated by Sheffield MBC before the land was sold into private ownership. However, dedication is one thing; making the path walkable is another. Gates, stiles, steps and tree clearance were all required to bring this path into use. John Harker identified this as an excellent cause where we could fittingly allocate £5,000 from the G H B Ward legacy money. John has taken the lead, on behalf of the Society, and has been working with the Steel Valley Project to bring this path into use. Our thanks go to John for all the hard work he has done on this and several other projects over the last 12 months.

Creating and preserving footpaths is an important part of our charitable aim. However, we must not forget the rest of our remit, which includes erecting and maintaining signposts, bridges etc for the benefit of ALL walkers. Paragraph 1.3 of our constitution states that we are an "equal opportunities society". "Walks for All" certainly helped us deliver on that part of our remit in 2010. Full details of our signpost and bridge achievements can be found elsewhere in their appropriate sections. I will just add that we consider the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act before committing funds to new bridges.

As in previous years, I will leave our dedicated team of officers to report on the many footpath-related activities that have been undertaken during the year. 2010 was certainly a busy year and 2011 promises to hold new challenges for the Society.





## Chairman's Report (continued)

The role of Chairman covers many aspects that are not directly footpath related but are just as vital if the Society is to continue to carry out our good work. The direct debit scheme is worth mentioning. It took a huge amount of effort and countless meetings to bring the project to a point where we were able to offer the facility to our membership. Reg Boot and Alistair Taylor are the people we must thank for making direct debits available to us.

Rounding off this part of my report, I'd like to thank all our volunteers, whether they have been with us for years or recently stepped forward to help. Their work is vital and often unsung, as they do everything from walking and inspecting paths to emptying the waste bins at Taylor House.

At the half-year meeting we held an open discussion on the Society's finances. Over the last couple of years we have made considerable savings in our expenditure and, thanks to some very generous donations, are more than half way to meeting our financial goal of income equalling expenditure. The meeting indicated that an increase in our subscription rate should be put to the AGM, and you will find our proposals in the AGM agenda enclosed with this report.

Finally, we must look to the future. But first a brief recap of the last few years will set things in context for newer members. In 2004, David Bratt took over as chairman, and since that time the Society has grown from strength to strength. Our membership has grown; our finances are in better shape; the office is a better work place for our volunteers; the list goes on. In the autumn newsletter I announced that I would not be standing as chair for a fourth year. Since that time the trustees have worked hard to find a replacement, so far without any sign of a suitable successor. The time has come to review the management of the Society's affairs.

At the AGM the trustees will outline a plan that will carry the Society forward. I do not want to pre-empt the proposals, but can assure you that we are looking at an evolution of our current structure, not a wholesale plan for change. Delivering our charitable objectives will be at the forefront of the plan, and we aim to propose changes that will strengthen our ability to do this. If the plan is to succeed, we will need the full support of the membership, and it would not be good if the Society were left without a Chairman whilst the plan was agreed and implemented. On that basis I have agreed to stand as Chair for the remainder of this financial year, i.e. until the end of December 2011. I believe that the plan will put us in a better position for the foreseeable future, and I hope you will give it your support.

## ***Alistair Taylor***

### **Notes on Income & Expenditure 2010**

#### **Accounting Basis**

These accounts have been prepared using the "receipts and payments" method rather than the "accruals" method as used up to 2006. This is in accordance with Charity Commission guidance and trustee decisions made in 2006.

The year saw a surplus of income over expenditure of £11,145 which compares favourably to the 2009 deficit of £21,268.

#### **Income**

Overall income for 2010 was £50,127 compared to £28,395 in 2009. This substantial increase is largely accounted for by an increase in legacies, bequests and general donations which at £24,386 was up by £19,109 on last year. It should be noted that a single bequest of £15,345 was received from the estate of the late Mr Butterworth. There were also a number of smaller, but no less welcome donations which made up the difference.

The remaining income sources remained roughly in line with those of 2009 apart from gift aid of £2,221 which was substantially up on the £1,377 for 2009. Increased miscellaneous income of £1,478 was as a result of an error regarding a cheque to our printers for £1,363 and is offset in printing costs which are overstated by the same amount.

#### **Expenditure**

Total expenditure of £38,983 is a considerable reduction on the £49,597 seen in 2009. This is in part a reflection on the economies undertaken at Taylor House together with the exceptional nature of the 2009 spend which included a number of items that had been promised over several years and were paid for in 2009. Consequently the reduced signpost and footbridge costs of £6,545 is more in line with average expenditure in previous years than the exceptional spend on these items in 2009.

Printing costs of £8,455 are artificially inflated by £1,363 as explained above. A more accurate figure would be £7,092 which is comparable with last years spend.

Postage costs of £4,234 are much lower than the £7,459 incurred in 2009. This reflects the efforts made by Taylor House volunteers to reduce expenditure.

Computer expenditure of £1,436 refers to the purchase of new PCs for Taylor House.

Subscriptions and Donations of £2,122 includes a £2,000 donation to signage for the 5 Weirs Walk.

Legal expenditure includes £1,586 for legal advice regarding the Bridestone campaign.





Charity Name  
**Peak and Northern Footpaths Society**

No (if any)  
212218

### Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from  
**01/01/2010**

To

Period end date  
**31/12/2010**

#### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Legacies, bequests donations (General)	24,386		-	24,386	5,277
Donations (signposts)	-	4,323	-	4,323	3,137
Donations (Footbridges)	-	-	-	-	-
Gift aid Tax	2,221	-	-	2,221	1,377
Interest/ dividends	5,979	-	-	5,979	5,755
Subscriptions/ Affiliations	11,742	-	-	11,742	12,820
Miscellaneous	1,478	-	-	1,478	29
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>45,805</b>	<b>4,323</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,128</b>	<b>28,395</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	92,244
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>92,244</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>45,805</b>	<b>4,323</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,128</b>	<b>120,639</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Taylor House Running costs	4,640	-	-	4,640	3,958
Signposts and Footbridges	1,000	5,545	-	6,545	11,900
Travel & Subsistence	4,768	-	-	4,768	5,402
Printing and Coping (Including Newsletter)	8,455	-	-	8,455	6,665
Postage/ Telephone/ Stationary	4,234	-	-	4,234	7,459
Computer & Software	1,436	-	-	1,436	735
Functions	1,389	-	-	1,389	1,908
Insurances	1,490	-	-	1,490	1,864
Subscriptions/ Donations	2,122	-	-	2,122	6,226
Legal/ Professional/ Secretarial	3,754	-	-	3,754	3,018
Sundries	150	-	-	150	462
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>33,438</b>	<b>5,545</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38,983</b>	<b>49,597</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	92,310
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>92,310</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>33,438</b>	<b>5,545</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38,983</b>	<b>141,907</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>12,367</b>	<b>- 1,222</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,145</b>	<b>- 21,268</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	8,936	8,936	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	74,508	24,153	-	98,661	119,929
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>95,811</b>	<b>13,995</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>109,806</b>	<b>98,661</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash investments	94,067	13,995	-
	Bank & Petty cash	1,744	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>95,811</b>	<b>13,995</b>	<b>-</b>

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	Government Stocks	69,501	-	-
	Loan Stock	27,202	-	-
	Equities	1,151	-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Taylor House (Building)	60,153	-	-
	Computer Equipment	2,500	-	-
	Furniture fittings & Equipment	4,351	-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Alistair Taylor Clarke Rogerson	

CCXX R2 accounts (SS)

2

26/01/2011

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
Peak and Northern Footpaths Society**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2010.

**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 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to state 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 Commission. 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**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:

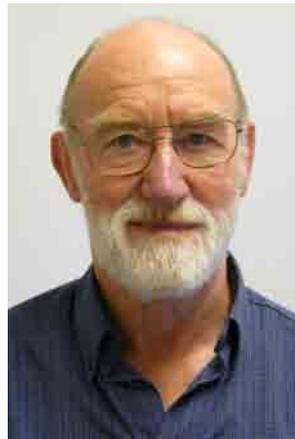
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act

have not been met; 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  
Bradley Fold, Woodford Lane, Newton, Macclesfield SK10 4LH  
25<sup>th</sup> January 2011





# Vice Chair's Report

## ***Dave Brown***

I sometimes think that the post of Vice Chairman is rather like that of the first officer on a ship. His job is to ensure that the Captain - the Chairman - sees his orders carried out promptly; and to ensure that the ship - Taylor House - is kept in efficient working order at the lowest possible cost.

And I would like to think that, over the last two years, I have achieved these objectives. Today Taylor House is a friendlier and less cluttered working environment, with better organised storage and better IT equipment. I have also achieved a significant saving on our utility bills.

A major achievement of the last year has been the production of the new Volunteers Handbook. Our team of Courts and Inquiries Officers pooled their considerable expertise to produce a wealth of invaluable material, which I have organised into a loose-leaf book. I think that the final result contains some of the best reference material on footpath law available in this country, whilst remaining accessible to non-legal readers.

I have continued editing the Society newsletter and have switched its emphasis to describing the work done by our Officers and Inspectors. But, in its 12 pages, I can barely scratch the surface of the immense amount that they do. Over 160 members have chosen to take the newsletter electronically, representing a saving of almost £500. But that still leaves over a thousand copies to be printed and distributed by post. I would urge all of you with access to the internet to consider receiving your communications in the modern way.





## ***Rhoda Barnett***

I am now well settled into my roles as the Area Officer for the Derbyshire Dales, South Derbyshire and Derby City areas, and the Courts & Inquiries Officer for all of Derbyshire. It is often difficult to distinguish between the two roles, and I am pleased that the Society intends to review the distribution of the officers' work and the job titles during the coming year.

The diligence of most of the Inspectors in reporting, monitoring and chasing the resolution of path problems has continued to make a major contribution to the work of the Society in my Derbyshire areas, and I am very grateful to them. I continue to wish that there were more Inspectors.

I have not found it necessary this year to serve any legal notices on the County Council for the removal of obstructions or the repair of surfaces – they have taken the threat of such action seriously. However, in 2011 I am sure that the budget cuts will hit the rights of way service, and the Society will need to use legal notices to concentrate minds on the Council's statutory duties of enforcement and maintenance.

I have been very pleased with Derbyshire Dales District Council's continued excellence in consulting me about planning applications which affect public paths: 34 such consultations in 2010, latterly through its website, which is an example to all councils. Working with the county council officers, we have managed to secure improvements to many proposed developments, and sometimes to get applications refused, on the grounds of the adverse effect the developments would have on rights of way.

There have also been nine consultations by the County Council on proposed or made modification orders; it has been disappointing that several of these have contained technical errors giving rise to objections from the Society, which means extra work for the Council which should have been avoided. The District and County Councils have both continued to make diversion orders in the interests of landowners, with 28 consultations during the year. Again there have been many technical errors, as well as some proposals which have been detrimental to walkers, and it has been necessary to object to these. So far, though, no public inquiries.

Nine other consultations have been made by the Department of Transport about the proposed stopping-up of areas of adopted highway; the Society is a statutory consultee for these, although they generally have little impact on walkers. There has also been one consultation on a proposed traffic regulation order to prevent public use of a byway in vehicles – the Society has supported this.

I have been very involved with looking at Derbyshire County Council's new rights of way Charter. We consider that this has several imperfections, such as a failure to instigate a publicly agreed system of priorities for dealing with problems on paths, and no targets for resolving most problems as opposed to just beginning to investigate them. The Council intends to adopt the Charter in February; we will keep a very close eye on its implementation, as well as keeping to our own priorities for taking stronger action to force the Council to remedy faults.



# Courts & Inquiries Reports (continued)

## ***John Harker***

This week, I attended the 'leaving-do' for the Rotherham MBC Definitive Map Review Officer. The day before, I was talking to one of the Stockport MBC PROW Officers, who told me he was leaving at the end of March 2011 as part of swingeing cuts being made by the authority. The comments I made in my report last year, about highway authorities in our area suffering huge pressures to save money by any means possible, now seem eerily prophetic. Hard-working and dedicated officers both, they are just the tip of an iceberg in terms of staff and budget cuts happening up and down our area of operations. However, it's an ill wind as they say, and one of those officers has expressed a desire to come and work for this Society.

On a happier note, there have been successes to lighten the gloom. In Derbyshire, we celebrated the reopening, at long last, of Eckington Footpath 50 after decades when it was unusable. Brampton Footpath 15 was reopened for walkers when a Society-funded bridge spanned the Birley Brook to replace an obstructing barbed-wire fence. Both cases came close to legal action by the Society before action was forthcoming. The bridge is already well used, according to the local ranger service, with comments like: "I never knew there was a path just here!" Other footpaths in the same parish, nos. 11 and 62, are usable now when they weren't before. Whilst it might be invidious to mention individual inspectors by name, can I take this opportunity to mention the sterling work done by Keith Feltham in north-east Derbyshire. Keith has been active for over 20 years, and his diligence in patrolling his patch and getting faults resolved by quiet persistence is a model of how things should be done.

In South Yorkshire, river crossings seem to be a problem all of a sudden. In Doncaster, we made it clear to DMBC that legal proceedings would ensue if a replacement bridleway bridge was not funded on Rossington Bridleway 14. It was funded eventually, and should be in place by March 2011. Also in Doncaster at Thorne, the case mentioned in last year's report, where I was to appear as advocate for the applicant for a Modification Order adding a footpath, went to public inquiry in August. The inspector found against us and declined to confirm the Order. Intimidation of some of our witnesses prior to the inquiry by one of the objectors was distressing but not ultimately a factor in the outcome.

In Barnsley, a footbridge has been missing across the river Dearne for nearly 4 years, severing footpath 159. We were quoted £400,000 to replace it. Do we force the issue at a time of such financial pressure, or do we see our duty as an absolute one? An interesting dilemma, and one that user groups must find answers to. We are all path users, but we are also all taxpayers.

On a brighter note, the obstructing electric gates on Dunford Footpath 6 in Barnsley, where users had to press a button to get in, are now altered to include a pedestrian gate. A word of praise for Society Area Officer Chris Davison and former inspector Paul Clarke, who kept a close eye on the path to keep me up to date. This enabled me to keep the pressure on Barnsley MBC to resolve the matter.

Two other Barnsley footpaths, involving stepping stones across the river Don, have been drawn to our attention by the affiliated Hunshelf Parish Council. Both cases are likely to be tricky to resolve without legal proceedings.

In Greater Manchester, Tameside MBC continues to cause the Society sleepless nights. We had to write to senior officers before our requests to reopen footpaths Longdendale 103, Mossley 107 and Stalybridge 11 were taken seriously. Even then, further delays ensued and only the persistence of local inspector Pat Thomas enabled some success to be reported. In Stockport, the curious case of Bredbury & Romiley Footpath 91 near Compstall deserves a whole article to itself. I shall endeavour to write one for the website, as our connections with this now badly obstructed and out-of-repair

# Courts & Inquiries Reports (continued)



path date back to the 1920s, when we successfully prosecuted the farmer for obstructing the path where it crossed Gigg Brook. He was fined 40 shillings! However, nothing much changes and it's still obstructed and so boggy as to be unwalkable.

A reorganisation of the Courts & Inquiries team is pending, so it is uncertain whether I will write another report next year. Whatever happens, I shall continue to be involved in some capacity. With the darkness descending everywhere, there is ample work out there to be done.

## ***Terry Norris***

I have represented the Society in two legal proceedings. The first of these was at St Helens Magistrates' Court, to oppose a diversion order in respect of part of the towpath of St Helens Canal near the town centre. This was also a definitive footpath. The path was to be diverted onto an existing tarmac path across an area of public open green space, which the council considered to be 'more commodious'. The Society opposed the diversion on two grounds. Firstly, the diversion of the path away from the canal side deprived walkers of the legal right to a water-side path. Secondly, the diversion was onto a path which was already a public right of way under common law, having been dedicated to the public at the time it was constructed. The diversion was also opposed by the local canal society, the Towpath Action Group and Peter Burns, representing a local walking group. The case was heard before a district judge who found against the Society on both counts.

A disappointing result, but we can take some satisfaction in turning what was to be a nominal five-minute hearing in the magistrates' court into a case involving the submission of skeleton arguments, two hearings and a site visit. St Helens were also put to the expense of employing a barrister. It was gratifying that the judge made it clear that it would not be appropriate to make any order as to costs, as the Society was following its charitable purpose in opposing the diversion order. Whilst the Legal and Policy committee believed that the judge misapplied the law as to the common-law status of the diversion, it did not consider it a sensible use of the Society's funds to pursue an appeal.

St Helens Council use the Magistrates' Court to process all footpath diversions and extinguishments. Whilst this is lawful, it is contrary to government guidance and is daunting for lay objectors; perhaps this is the idea. Fortunately, almost all the other highway authorities dealt with by the Society use other provisions in the Highways Act 1980 which result in hearings or public inquiries before a planning inspector, rather than using what is essentially a criminal court.

The second case was the subject of a hearing before a planning inspector concerning the diversion of a path at Horton cum Peel in Cheshire. The diversion application arose as a result of the applicant's change of business at Peel Hall from growing and selling potatoes to breeding and training horses for racing. The Society opposed part of the diversion application, which affected a path forming part of the Baker Way. The existing path passes close to Peel Hall and follows a direct line. The basis of our case was that the diversion would be longer; there would be loss of close views of the Hall; and danger would arise from vehicular traffic using the diverted path. Whilst accepting that the movement of young frisky horses across the line of the existing paths presented some dangers to walkers, we argued that closure of the path was disproportionate and that the risk could be managed in other ways which would not result in loss of the path. The application was also opposed by a local resident, a parish councillor, Engineer Claus Armstrong and David Bratt representing walkers using the Baker Way.

The applicant produced evidence from the British Horseracing Authority that it was a requirement of licensing a training establishment that the public should not be permitted access through the licensed area. The inspector accepted that part of the footpath would form part of the licensed area. It was therefore considered expedient in the interests of the owner that the path be diverted. The



## Courts & Inquiries Reports (continued)

inspector rejected all the arguments as to the new path being 'substantially less convenient to the public'. The inspector was not satisfied that the suggested alternative methods for managing the risks associated with movement of the horses, such as the use of gates, fencing and warning notices, would be effective. Again, a disappointing result, but understandable in the light of evidence presented at the hearing by the landowner.

Use of section 130A notices was authorised in respect of a number of long-standing obstructions. All have been resolved following a letter before action, so no court action was required. The most pleasing of these was the removal of a barrier on a Colne Valley path in Kirklees, which, whilst it allowed walkers to pass at the side, deterred people from using the path. The recent *Herrick v Somerset County Council* case, which made it clear that the whole width of the path has to be available to walkers, provided a very useful precedent to cite to the highway authority.

### ***Harry W Scott***

As I write this annual report at the start of 2011, I wait to see how Staffordshire County Council budget cuts will affect rights of way work in the county. The prediction so far is that no staff will have to go during 2011, although the budget for work on public rights of way, stiles, gates and clearance work is likely to be cut. I submitted 105 footpath complaints to Staffordshire County Council during 2010, and the County Council have over the year improved their customer service and are acknowledging complaints by return of post. Many footpath complaints are being resolved within a few months of the complaint. This has only been achieved by lobbying County Councillors continually.

I received 178 planning applications from around the county from the various district councils. Many of the applications affected public rights of way, and I was able to comment and warn the councils of the possible loss of a footpath. Staffordshire County Council submitted 24 footpath diversion consultations to the Society. Along with our Inspectors, I made site visits to all 24. We were able to suggest better alternatives on several occasions, and the County Council accepted all our suggestions.

Some ten or more years ago there was a development at Red Lion Farm, Haughton, Stafford Borough, which involved new farm buildings and required diversions to two footpaths. Stafford Borough Council made the order to divert the paths and later confirmed the order. Unfortunately the diversions on the ground did not take place, so for over ten years there has been no public access to the paths. However, although it has taken me over 12 months to persuade Staffordshire County Council to reinvestigate, I can now confirm that both footpaths will be open and usable early in 2011.

I am pleased to report the following public rights of way were opened up during 2010: Alrewas footpath 36, Penkridge bridleway 40, Croxden footpath 28, Church Eaton footpath 0.1310, High Offley bridleway 25, Burntwood footpath 2, Bradley bridleway 7, Okeover footpath 7, and Yoxall footpath 54.

In cooperation with the Ramblers' Association we have identified 15 footpaths around Lichfield District which will be affected by the High Speed 2 (HS2) railway line. To date there is no information from the HS2 company as to how they plan to deal with the footpaths affected by the new line, and work is not expected to start before 2019. However, along with the Ramblers' Association, we intend to ensure that none of the footpaths will be lost.

# Consultations & Orders Report



## ***Alan Hooley***

There has been one change of personnel in 2010. Sue Clarke has taken responsibility for the incoming post log, replacing Jean Parrish, whom I thank for her invaluable work in the section. The team of assessors has remained unchanged, and I acknowledge with gratitude the excellent work that they do.

The the section's success is founded on the fieldwork done by the inspectors. The quality of their reports enables us to make soundly reasoned responses to an authority's proposals and orders. Unfortunately the Society does not have an inspector covering every parish and district, and on occasions we have to ask an inspector from elsewhere, or a member who does not normally do inspections, to do an off-patch report. I am particularly grateful to those who have cheerfully agreed to take on these extra tasks. The only alternative is to do a paper assessment in the office, which can never be satisfactory.

A concern I do have is that an authority, when making an order, does not always respond to proposals an inspector made at consultation stage to ensure that a new section of path will be safe and convenient. It is good practice for an authority to issue a statement of reasons for making an order. In my 2009 report I said that only a minority of authorities issue a statement setting out in detail the reasoning underpinning an order. Our option of last resort is to lodge an objection until we are provided with the information we need. It is heavy handed to lodge an objection when we have no reason to dispute the principle of the order, but we shall persist – we cannot afford to let standards drop.

Statistics: In 2010 (2009 figures in brackets) we received at Taylor House 315 orders of all types (296); 461 pre-order consultations (196); 332 alleygating orders (561); and 268 other matters (172). We lodged 5 objections (6). In percentage terms the increase in cases is just over 12%.





# Faults & Inspectors Report

## ***Hilda Bowler - Footpath Faults***

During the year 884 footpath faults were reported, of which 379 were obstructions of some kind; 135 concerned waymarking; 186 were damaged stiles; 28 were about ploughing and cropping; and 152 were missing or damaged signposts.

52 of these faults were reported cleared during the year, and we had 355 reports of previously reported faults being cleared – it gives us great satisfaction to enter these on the database!

I would like to thank all Inspectors for their hard work for the Society, and for the clear reports which are sent or copied to Taylor House. Brian Summerscales continues to prove invaluable for looking up footpath numbers, and Sue Clarke is continuing to do sterling work with the database – my thanks to them both

## **Inspectors**

Footpath inspecting is an extremely important part of the Society's work, and Footpath Inspectors play a vital role. We do value the work our Inspectors undertake, and would like to give them our thanks and appreciation.

Several Inspectors have resigned during this year for various reasons, and I would like to thank them for the efforts they have put in over the years on the Society's behalf. We have also been joined by a number of new Inspectors, and I hope they are enjoying their role.

We currently have a total of 79 Inspectors and Agents, as well as our 5 Area Officers. We would welcome more, especially in our outlying areas. If you feel you would like to volunteer, or to find out more about an Inspector's role, do contact Taylor House. We would very much like to hear from you.



# Signpost Officer's Report



## **Dave Morton**

This year, for financial reasons, no new signposts were funded by the Society and the budget for maintenance was capped. Help with maintenance evaporated like dew on a hot day, so at first the prospects seemed rather bleak to me. However, thanks to your generous individual donations for new signposts, some help in spotting priorities for maintenance, and the more-than-adequate maintenance budget, 2010 turned out to be another good year for signposting. Particular thanks go to Ted Wolfe and John Hodgson for their sterling service in erecting new signs; and to John Grimsey, who raised several donations among his friends in Marple Walkers. I would also like to thank Brian Morrison, Sue Clarke, Bill Buckley, Michael Granger and Tony Brackenbury for their continuing help.

Overall, we added 16 new and 2 old signposts to the stock of 303 that we had at the end of 2009. This compares with 31 new signposts in 2009 and 15 in 2008. As planned, after a year or two of extending east, west and south, in 2010 we extended our coverage northwards. At the start of 2010, our most northerly signposts lay just west of Haslingden. But by the end of September they stretched via Wiswell and Sabden, just south of Clitheroe, to Brennand Farm in the heart of Bowland; and finally to Lowgill, just south of Low Bentham and close to the northern limit of our footpaths area. At year's end we had 321 "silent ambassadors" in place, with two more at Taylor House awaiting the thaw.

### New signposts erected in 2010:

112 Rediscovered and relocated	Moorland Centre, Edale
226 Reinstated on Lyme Handley 3	In memory of Colin Fenton
379 Lr. Nabbs Farm, Wildboarclough	In memory of Bob Chaney
380 Ipstones, Staffs.	Donated by C and D Carter
381 Hr.Swanscoe, Hr. Hurdsfield	
382 Dean Farm, Sabden	In memory of Harry Sutcliffe
384 Pennine Way at Torside	In memory of Frank Griffiths
385 Tatham Church, Lowgill	90th birthday of Esther Horsfall
386 Wiswell Moor Ho., Sabden	In memory of Ken Cooper
387 Stairend Bridge, Lowgill	Donated by Roy Clough
388 Brennand Farm , Dunsop Br.	Donated by G R Bullough
389 Brennand Farm , Dunsop Br.	In memory of Frank Griffiths
390 Brennand Farm , Dunsop Br.	Donated by Martin Lee
391 Further Harrop Farm, Rainow	70th birthday of John Goodman
392 Goldsitch Farm, Quarnford	
393 Manor Ho. Farm, Marsden	In memory of Frank Griffiths
394 Ember Farm, Bonsall	In memory of E & C Clarke, J & G McDonough
395 Taxal Moor	In memory of Ann Brocklehurst

If anyone wishes to donate a new signpost in 2011, please contact me.



# Bridge Report

## ***Neil Collie***

2010 was a satisfying year which saw the completion of some long-standing projects. In March the new footbridge over the River Beal in Shaw, Oldham (B30) was handed over to Oldham MBC. As you can see in the photo, this is a sturdy steel structure designed and superbly constructed by Environmental Fieldwork Ltd of Bury. We hope it will be more robust than the previous bridge, which had been persistently vandalised, often leaving walkers to balance on a single plank across the stream (see back cover for photo). Our inspector, Martin Riley, and Rights of Way staff from Oldham Council's Unity Partnership worked closely together to ensure the project was completed successfully. The path will become more popular later this year, when a substandard railway subway close to the footbridge is replaced by a ground-level crossing of the new Metrolink tracks.

Also, in November 2010, a new footbridge (B29) over the Birley Brook on footpath 15 in the Parish of Brampton, west of Chesterfield, was completed (see photo page 12). This project has taken three years to implement (and was mentioned in my 2008 and 2009 reports). It is very pleasing that we have been successful at last, largely due to John Harker's perseverance when access issues seemed insurmountable. As a result the footpath, which was obstructed by a barbed-wire fence and completely overgrown, is now available to walkers in a very popular and attractive area adjacent to Linacres Country Park.

We are talking to the National Trust at the Longshaw Estate near Grindleford about improving access for less mobile visitors. The project would consist of path surface improvements and the elimination of a set of steps up to the road. We have offered funds from the Ward legacy to replace a very narrow footbridge over the Burbage Brook. To date, match funding to improve the footpath has not been identified.

The Committee has also been able to give the go-ahead to a significant project in Kirklees, thanks to legacy money. A path above Marsden, Colne Valley 217, has been impassable except by very determined walkers for some years. The path is on a sloping hillside, and not only was the path surface eroded, but in many places walkers had to clamber over stones dislodged from the adjacent dry stone walls. Finally, they were faced with deep waterlogged sections which could not be bypassed because of walls on either side. Our offer to fund the cost of materials for a new board-walk has galvanised Kirklees into the major task of clearing the path, improving the drainage and building the board-walk. This is a significant amount of work, and a good example of where a small donation from the Society has secured a major investment in the footpath network.

# Membership Secretary's Report



## *Reg Boot*

As you can see from the figures below, 2010 was not such a good year as 2009: membership fell by about 8% and is back to the level of 2007/08. However, this should be seen in perspective – 2009 was a particularly good year and we can't expect to do so well every year. The Society has been very successful over the last few years, growing from 838 in 2003 to 1,536 in 2009. The reason for the fall in membership is a combination of recruiting fewer new members and an increase in the number who do not renew their membership – in 2010 about 25% of those due to renew did not do so. The economic situation and people's need to economise may be affecting us, but I find it difficult to believe that 20p a week would break anyone's budget.

In 2010 we recruited only about half the number of members that we did in 2009. Because there will always be members who do not renew, we need to recruit actively if we are to increase, or even maintain, membership numbers. We would be very grateful for any help that members can provide with recruitment. The most obvious way would be to bring the activities of the Society to the attention of any of your acquaintances with an interest in walking.

We recruit a good proportion of our new members through giving talks to local societies and attending shows and festivals. We have not been as successful as usual this year, and may have exhausted the potential of the types of societies and shows we attend. We would be interested in any ideas that members may have about any local societies, shows or festivals which you think might be a good recruiting ground.

The following table shows the development of membership over the last few years.

<b>Members</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Annual	617	754	747	834	739
Ten Year	281	300	302	299	292
Five Year	299	350	351	378	351
Honorary Life	18	17	17	22	32
Junior	2	5	2	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>1426</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1536</b>	<b>1414</b>
Affiliates	77	81	79	87	84



# Membership

## Honorary Members

Mr D R Andrew  
Miss O Bowyer  
Mr & Mrs J Burling  
Mr A M Davies  
Mr M H Deakin  
Mr & Mrs F R M Fysh  
Mr F H Hall

Mrs J Head  
Mr & Mrs D Hilliker  
Mrs S Hulme  
Sir J Johnson  
Mr & Mrs J C Law  
Mrs K Mayall  
Mrs L G Meadowcroft

Mr J Robinson  
Mrs J Sutton  
Mr F Travis  
Mr & Mrs F Whitehead  
Mr S Wraith

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## Affiliated Society

Abbotsfield Fellwalkers of Flixton  
Alderley Edge, Wilmslow & District FP Society  
Altrincham & District Rambling Club  
Anchor Ramblers  
Ashover Footpath & Bridleway Committee  
Ashton-u-Lyne & District Walking Club  
Barlborough Parish Council  
Barnsley Mountaineering Club  
Blackbrook Conservation Society  
Bolton CHA Rambling Club  
Buxton Rambling Club  
CAE - Rambling Club  
CHA Manchester Rambling Club  
CHA Mansfield  
CHA Nottingham Rambling Club  
CHA Sheffield Rambling & Social Club  
Cheadle Hulme & Bramhall Natural History Society  
Cheshire Tally Ho Hare & Hounds Club  
Club AZ Walkers  
Congleton Ramblers and P\*\*! Artists  
Crescent Ramblers Northwich  
Denby Dale Parish Walking Group  
Derby Nomad Ramblers  
Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society  
Derbyshire Pennine Club  
Disley Footpaths Society  
Eccles Rambling and Social Club  
Eyam Village Society  
Friends of Springfield Park  
Hanliensian Rambling Club  
Hasland Walking for Health  
Heatons Reddish U3A  
HF Bolton Group  
HF Bury Group  
HF Nottingham Group  
HF Warrington Rambling Club  
Holymoorside & Walton P C  
Hunshelf Parish Council  
Ladybrook Valley District Scout Club  
Leek & District FP Preservation & Rambling Group  
Littleborough Civic Trust  
Longdendale & Glossopdale FP Preservation Society  
Macclesfield & District Field Club  
Macclesfield Rambling Club  
Manchester Associates Rambling Club  
Manchester Associates Rambling Club

Manchester Field Club  
Manchester Rambling Club  
Marple District Rambling Club  
Marple Naturalists  
Mid Cheshire Footpath Society  
New Mills and District U3A  
New Mills Radical Ramblers  
Northenden Walkers  
Northwestern Naturalists Union  
Pennine Wayfarers Rambling Club  
Poynton Rambling Club  
Probus Club of Newton-le-Wilows WG  
RA Congleton Group  
RA Doncaster  
RA East Cheshire Area  
RA Manchester & High Peak Area  
RA New Mills & District  
RA North & Mid Cheshire  
RA Nottinghamshire Area  
RA Oldham Group  
RA South Yorks & NE Derbyshire Area  
Rochdale CHA Rambling Club  
Rock and Heather Club  
Romiley Ladies 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 Scramblers Rambling Club  
The Strollers  
Trafford Walkers  
Warrington U3A Walking Group  
West Lancashire Footpath Group



## **NAME, OBJECTS AND NATURE**

1. We are called 'Peak & Northern Footpaths Society'. Our objects are:-

- a) Creating and preserving open spaces, public access rights and rights of way (other than for mechanically propelled vehicles); particularly in Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire and Staffordshire, the former Metropolitan Counties of Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South and West Yorkshire and in Blackburn & Darwen, Blackpool, Derby, Halton, Stoke-on-Trent and Warrington.
- b) Preventing the abuse of such rights.
- c) Monitoring, supporting and opposing proposals and orders for the creation, closure, diversion and regrading of public rights of way.
- d) Erecting and maintaining direction posts, signs, footbridges and commemorative structures.
- e) All objects conducive to the foregoing.

1.2 We pursue our objects via negotiation: but when appropriate, engage in legal proceedings, including public inquiries and mediation.

1.3 We are an equal opportunities Society.

## **PROVISION OF TRUSTEE INDEMNITY INSURANCE**

1.4 The trustees shall have the power to provide trustee indemnity insurance for themselves out of our income.

## **TRUSTEES NOT TO HAVE A PERSONAL INTEREST**

1.5 Subject to the provisions of clause 1.4 (provision of trustee indemnity insurance clause) and except with the prior written approval of the Charity Commissioners no trustee may:

- a) receive any benefit in money or in kind from us; or
- b) have a financial interest in the supply of goods or services to us; or
- c) acquire or hold any interest in property belonging to us (otherwise than as our trustee) or receive remuneration from us or be interested (otherwise than as our trustee) in any contract entered into by trustees.

## **DEFINITIONS**

2. In this Constitution –

'AGM' means Annual General Meeting;

'EGM' means Extraordinary General Meeting;

'GM' means General Meeting' and includes an AGM and an EGM;

an 'Officer' is a person who is appointed to a specific office including the presidency but not a vice-presidency.

'we' and 'us' mean the Society;

'our' means the Society's.

## **OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**

3a) Each Officer and each Trustee (who must also be an Officer) shall be appointed at a G M or (if the appointment is between GMs) by other Officers.

b) at each AGM all existing Officers and Trustees willing to continue in post shall be subject to



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re-election.

c) The Trustees may invest our funds as they see fit and may borrow, charge our assets and own the freehold or leasehold of land and buildings. At all times they must exercise overall control of our management but in so far as is compatible with their legal duties as trustees they shall implement the wishes of the generality of our members.

d) The Officers may change the duties of existing Officer posts from time to time, re-name such posts and create new ones: but there shall never be more than 15 Officers.

e) Subject to Clause 3 (c, our business which is not conducted in G M shall be conducted by the Officers. They may determine the rules for conducting their business and may delegate their powers to any committee and co-opt (for a specified period) anyone to serve thereon. The quorum for an Officers' meeting shall be 3 Officers.

f) If a resolution is passed by the Officers or a G M, but the majority of the Trustees decide that its implementation may create greater liabilities than our funds can prudently bear, the Trustees may within 28 days annul this resolution via a written veto, signed by each of its supporters and explaining its reasons. This veto shall be reported to the next meeting of the body which passed the resolution.

g) The Treasurer shall be consulted about any decision to invest or spend our funds (except on an ordinary outgoing) unless he/she cannot be consulted and the item is urgent; when the President or Chairman shall be consulted.

h) Tenure of an office shall cease upon the holder's resignation or permanent incapacity to perform most of his/her work; or when an AGM does not confirm further tenure; or on the expiry of a written termination notice given by two thirds of the fellow Officers.

## **MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS**

4a) Subscriptions shall be due within 1 month of each A G M, at the rate set at an AGM.

b) Notice of Officers' recommendations for

i) any proposed rate changes and

ii) variations in the number, specification and/or title of subscription classes shall be included in the notice of the A G M: which may vote to accept or reject them but may not amend or delete any of them.

c) Household membership is available to two or more people living at the same address. A maximum of two Household members will be entitled to full voting rights at GMs.

d). Individual members of 20 or more years standing, aged at least 65 years, shall be entitled (on application) to honorary life membership.

e) The A G M may elect, for life, Vice Presidents; who shall enjoy honorary membership.

f) A body having an interest in our work which pays us an affiliation subscription may nominate one delegate and two other persons to us, who shall be deemed to be members.

g) All members may attend GMs and shall receive our Annual Report and other publications.

h) A member may be expelled by our Officers if in the opinion of a majority of them his/her actions have been seriously detrimental to us. Prior to resolving to expel, these Officers shall give the member written notice of the alleged actions and detriments and a copy of this Clause 4 h) plus a reasonable opportunity to prepare and state his/her response. Within one month of expulsion that member may appeal by giving written notice of appeal to an Officer. The appeal will be heard by a panel consisting of one Vice President and 4 members (none of whom shall be an Officer) chosen by that Vice-president. The appellant shall be reinstated if the majority of the panel votes to allow the appeal.



## **DATA STORAGE**

5 We may hold on computers personal information about members; solely for the maintenance of our membership records and conduct of our activities. We may not divulge such information outside the Society.

## **GENERAL MEETINGS**

6a) An AGM shall be held in the first six months of each year and shall consider and (if approved) adopt the Annual Report and Accounts for the past year and transact any other business that may arise. Ten members shall form a quorum.

(b) Each GM shall be convened by written notice, given by the Chairman or an Officer deputising for him or her. This notice shall be dispatched to each member at the last known address, at least 10 days before the Meeting and stating the business of the GM. Ten members shall form a quorum.

c) Subject to Clause 6 e), approval of a motion put to a GM requires a simple majority of votes cast. A tie may be resolved by the Chairman of the meeting casting a second vote. A member attending a GM may propose a motion about an issue which is not mentioned in the notice of the GM. If the Chairman of the GM decides that the issue is not urgent and may also be of controversial interest to the generality of members this Chairman may defer the motion to the next GM.

d) An E G M shall be held upon the requisition of ten members, sent to the Secretary or other Officer, specifying the reason for the meeting, or upon a resolution of an Officers' meeting.

e) A motion for the alteration of this constitution requires the approval of at least two thirds of the members present and voting at an E G M. If the motion is proposed pursuant to a Clause 6(d) requisition the Secretary must receive this motion at least six weeks before the EGM where it is to be discussed.

f) No alteration to Clause 1 (Objects), Clause 8 (Dissolution) or this Clause 6f) shall take effect without the approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction. No alteration may be made which would deprive us of the legal status of charity. No amendment enabling the provision of any form of trustee benefit shall be made without the prior written approval of the Charity Commission.

## **AFFILIATION**

7 We may affiliate to such other societies, constituted for like objects, as may be decided at a G M. In pursuing our objects we may act alone or in collaboration with other parties.

## **DISSOLUTION**

8a) We may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at an E G M convened for that purpose, of which at least 6 weeks notice shall have been given to the Secretary.

b) Assets remaining after satisfaction of our liabilities shall not be distributed among our members but shall be given to such other charitable institution(s) with objects similar to some of ours as we shall decide: but should this be impracticable, then to other charitable purposes.

