

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND NORTHERN COUNTIES

Footpaths Preservation Society

(DERBY SECTION.)

The Executive are anxious to increase the membership and usefulness of the Society, and arouse more general interest in its work ; with this object, they desire to place before you particulars of what has already been accomplished, and the course it is proposed to adopt for the future.

WORK DONE.

Kinderscout.—A right of way obtained, about 6 miles long, between Hayfield and the Ashop Valley ; this will be a great advantage to tourists and residents in the Peak District.

Breadsall (Morley Road).—A diversion of a footpath, which was being made surreptitiously, will be approved and registered by the proper authorities ; a new stile has been provided in place of one which had been blocked up.

Breadsall (near Water Works).

Ashbourne Road.

Kedleston Road.

Burton Road.

Kirk Langley.

} Cases have been
investigated at
these places, and
dealt with.

Old Normanton.—A footpath and stile are now having attention.

This represents a great amount of work on the part of the Committee, and even where it is not found that a right of way exists, it must be a source of satisfaction to the complainants to have cases investigated by an impartial body, without the expense and annoyance of legal proceedings.

It is supposed by some that the formation of Parish and District Councils renders a Society of this kind unnecessary, but our experience proves the contrary, for **these Councils have not shewn much readiness to deal with abuses of rights of way**; our policy, however, is to draw their attention to any cases which come under their control, and, where possible, to act in conjunction with them.

Again, many footpaths are used much more by town residents than country people, and the latter are often unwilling to incur the expense of keeping the footpaths and stiles in proper condition; **town residents have no voice in Parish and District Councils**, and if they wish these matters to receive attention, it is important that all who are interested in country walks and rights of way should support the Society.

As to the future, it has been decided to form Sub-Committees, consisting of Members of the Society, to periodically inspect the footpaths and stiles in the neighbourhood; the inspection is to extend for not less than 5 miles from Derby, and seven Districts will be formed, as follows:—

1. Between Osmaston Road and Stenson Road.
2. " Stenson " " Uttoxeter "
3. " Uttoxeter " " Ashbourne "
4. " Ashbourne " " Duffield "
5. " Duffield " " Morley "
6. " Morley " " Nottingham "
7. " Nottingham " " Osmaston "

Cases like the Kinderscout one cannot often occur, and it is intended now to devote special attention to local cases ; of recent years, several unlawful diversions of footpaths have been made, and it is hoped to prevent such from occurring again, and to improve the condition of footpaths and stiles generally where it is necessary.

If you are willing to assist in this scheme, please inform the Hon. Sec. which District or Districts you are prepared to take, also kindly say whether you would care to attend a meeting for further discussing the matter.

The Executive will be pleased if you will draw the attention of all likely persons—particularly Pedestrians, Members of Rambling Clubs, &c.—to the objects and claims of the Society, so as to increase the Membership ; the Hon. Sec. will forward you circulars for distribution on hearing that you can make use of them.

Subscriptions for the current year were due on October 1st, 1895, and it is important they should be paid as soon as possible (minimum 2/6) ; they may be handed to—

Mr. Fred Adcock, Diocesan School, Friar Gate.

„ F. T. Basford, Accountant, 36, Victoria Street.

„ W. H. Walton, Free Library, Wardwick ; or the
Hon. Sec., 124, Rose Hill Street (by cash,
cheque, or postal order.)

Signed, on behalf of the Executive,

FREDERICK STRUTT,

President of the Derby Section.

GEORGE S. SIMS,

Chairman of Committee.

WILLIAM SMITHARD, Hon. Secretary.

March 5th, 1896.