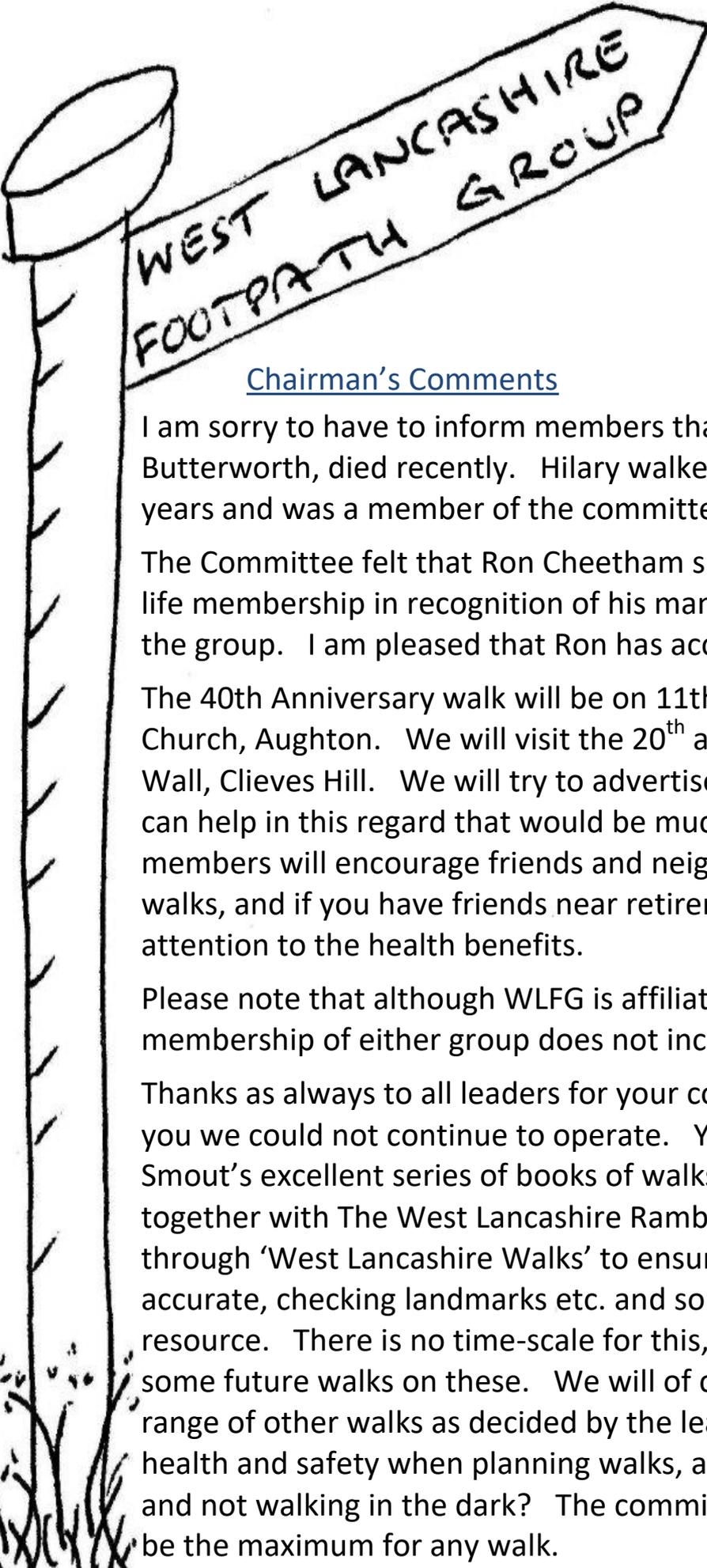


# Newsletter 143

## March 2017



WEST LANCASHIRE  
FOOTPATH GROUP

### Chairman's Comments

I am sorry to have to inform members that long-term member, Hilary Butterworth, died recently. Hilary walked with us regularly for many years and was a member of the committee. She will be greatly missed.

The Committee felt that Ron Cheetham should be awarded honorary life membership in recognition of his many years of dedicated work for the group. I am pleased that Ron has accepted this.

The 40th Anniversary walk will be on 11th June, starting from Christ Church, Aughton. We will visit the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary plaque at Devil's Wall, Clieves Hill. We will try to advertise this in local media. If anyone can help in this regard that would be much appreciated. We hope all members will encourage friends and neighbours to come and try our walks, and if you have friends near retirement perhaps you could draw attention to the health benefits.

Please note that although WLFG is affiliated to The Ramblers, membership of either group does not include the other group.

Thanks as always to all leaders for your continued support. Without you we could not continue to operate. You may know of Michael Smout's excellent series of books of walks. Michael has agreed that, together with The West Lancashire Ramblers, we will progressively work through 'West Lancashire Walks' to ensure that the detail given is still accurate, checking landmarks etc. and so preserving an invaluable resource. There is no time-scale for this, but leaders are invited to base some future walks on these. We will of course continue to offer a range of other walks as decided by the leaders. Can we all have in mind health and safety when planning walks, avoiding walking on busy roads and not walking in the dark? The committee agreed that 6 miles should be the maximum for any walk.

continued p.2)

Website

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## Footpath news

We continue to report obstructions, blockages or other difficulties with footpaths. Current problems include a broken handrail on the steps from Smith Way to Greetby Hill (Ormskirk FP144); Scarisbrick FP25 at the Villa where the signpost on Southport Road has been removed and Upholland FP38 which has been blocked by fencing round a new housing development. On a positive note, following our representations to Lancashire CC about Bispham FP2, where a fallen tree had blocked the board walk over the swamp, this has been removed and repairs made to the handrails.

Please note that in addition to the extensive closures of paths due to pipe laying, the canal tow-path between Prescott Bridge and Rufford Lock is closed until 12th March for repairs.

Peter.

## Membership Matters

Once again, thanks to members who have already renewed their subscription for this year, but there is a worryingly large number who have not yet done so. We hope that they will soon renew their membership. We need to increase our numbers if we are to continue to operate successfully. I recommend that all members follow Peter's advice on page one to encourage friends and neighbours to attend our walks and perhaps join our membership.

John.

## Contact Numbers

Peter Fletcher	Chairman and Footpath Inspector	01704 542661
<b>Post currently vacant</b>	Secretary	
Ann Robinson	Rambles Secretary	01695 571303
John Partington	Membership & Gift Aid Secretary	01695 421408
Karen Jennings	Treasurer	01695 570349
Doreen Bird	Footpath Inspector	0151 526 5625
Roger Eastham	Committee Member	01695 576227
Christine Hill	Committee Member	01772 816486
Tommy Wadkin	Committee Member	01695 735785

## **W L F G 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk**

*Many of you will know that the Group was founded in 1977 by Peter and Margaret Smith who were dedicated campaigners for the footpaths in the area.*

*On the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1997, our Committee celebrated the occasion by commissioning a bench which was erected at Devil's Wall on Gaw Hill Aughton, complete with a plaque commemorating it. The bench is still there (and in good condition).*

*Your current Committee has agreed that a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk would be one suitable way of celebrating 40 years of rambling in West Lancashire. Come along with family, friends and neighbours and enjoy the afternoon with us.*

***DATE:- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June (Trinity Sunday),***

***TIME:- 1.30pm,***

***START POINT:- Christ Church, Aughton,***

***LEADER:- Roger Eastham.***

For details of West Lancashire Ramblers local walks please visit :-  
[www.ramblers.org.uk/west-lancashire](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/west-lancashire)  
or contact Geoff Wright (01772 812034).