



## Newsletter 145 September 2017

### Chairman's Comments

We look forward to an exciting programme of walking through Autumn and I hope we can continue to attract new members to enjoy the considerable network of public footpaths in the area. Please encourage as many members as possible to come to the AGM, which will be held at the Bowling Club, Sandy Lane, Old Skelmersdale on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Come and hold the Committee to account and make suggestions for the future. Following the successful pattern of the last two years the evening will commence with a walk at 6pm, which will be a little longer this year because the light should be better earlier in September. This will be followed by refreshments and the formal meeting, starting at 7.30 pm.

Over 30 walkers came on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June from Christ Church, Aughton. We visited the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary seat on Clieves Hill and Devil's Wall, and finished up with tea and coffee and delicious cakes. Thanks to the volunteers at Gaw Hill Nature Reserve who looked after us very well. We are very grateful to them.

Central to what we do is the programme of rambles. These are normally held on the last Tuesday and the second Saturday or Sunday in the month, though can be moved if required. They are at least 4 miles (not more than 6) as far as possible following rights of way or minor roads in West Lancashire and surrounding areas. We also have the Canal and Countryside walks on alternate Wednesday evenings in the summer. I remind leaders of this to help with forward planning. We do need to let Ann know as soon as possible what we can take on.

A big welcome to Gwen and Gaby who have offered to lead walks in the future. Sadly we have lost two of our experienced leaders this year, so ask if any of you would like to join the band of volunteers. You don't have to be an expert, just willing to lead a walk somewhere that you know well. We would be happy to assist with the planning if required. Please let us know if you can help.

(Cont. page 2)

(from page 1)

### Footpath news

There have been problems in the Haskayne and Halsall area.

Downholland FP5 from School Lane to Delf Lane is impossible to walk because of encroaching trees and a collapsing bank along the ditch.

Downholland FP15/Halsall 28 from Rosemary lane to Plex Lane has vanished in a field of rape. Scarisbrick FP30 from Pinfold Lane to Primrose Hill has been ploughed up to a state where it is not possible to place your feet securely and safely. This is a loss to the community as it does give a path from Scarisbrick to Ormskirk. These problems have been brought to the attention of LCC and to the Parish Councils.

A local resident drew attention to Downholland FP7 which runs south west from Owens Lane, then becoming Altcar FP2. Apparently in the days of the Cheshire Lines Railway there was a station at Altcar and you could walk from there up to Haskayne. This seems to have disappeared – does anyone remember this path? Peter.

### Membership Matters

It's that time of year again, our new operational year starts on 1<sup>st</sup> October, so I have included a renewal/application form with your copy of the Newsletter John.

### Committee 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

## ***FURTHER NEWS AND FOOTPATH UPDATES .***

### Good news in Tarleton

Footpath number 8-16-5, which runs between Sutton Avenue in Tarleton and Hesketh Bank and follows the course of the river, has been damaged for about 12 years. The damage was a result of river bank erosion, which led to the footpath falling into the river, and the full stretch of the path became closed. The good news is that considerable structural repairs have now been made, and the path is once more 'walkable'. Walking along footpath number 8-16-1, on the eastern side of the river, which runs from the lay-by on Liverpool Old Road, affords a really good view of the repair.

### Early thoughts for Christmas

Following the very successful 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk and excellent refreshments, we have already booked coffee and cake at St Mary's Brasserie, Rufford following Geoff's walk on 19<sup>th</sup> December. It would be good to have a similar large turnout!

**[www.westlancsfootpathgroup.org.uk](http://www.westlancsfootpathgroup.org.uk)**

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).