

# West Lancashire Footpath Group



**Newsletter 146    December 2017**

## Chairman's Comments

As we enter the winter season remember that in the worst weather a walk in the country is still a delight if we have good boots and warm waterproof clothing.

In September the AGM in the Bowling Club, Skelmersdale was an enjoyable occasion, not least because of the excellent buffet provided by the committee members. Many thanks to Tommy, who arranged the venue, led a very enjoyable walk and even ensured that the threatened rain held off!

Our insurance requires leaders (and back-markers where designated) to be paid-up members of the group. We welcome non-members as guests, but insurance cover applies for up to 3 walks, after which they are expected to join the group. For this reason we intend to go back to recording names of walkers at the beginning of walks and a form will be issued for this purpose.

We have purchased a strimmer and appropriate safety gear to help attack some of the seriously overgrown paths. Tommy has agreed to be the designated footpath maintenance officer. It must be stressed that this strimmer will not be available to anyone else and will only be used by him or under his direct supervision, again in view of the requirements of the insurance policy.

It has been decided that weekend walks will in future be on Sundays, leaving Saturdays free for exciting activities like shopping and football. The normal pattern will now be the second Sunday and the last Tuesday of each month, unless there is a clash with Christmas or bank holidays.

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Website:- [www.westlancsfootpathgroup.org.uk](http://www.westlancsfootpathgroup.org.uk)  
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Thanks to Ann and all the leaders. We are still keen to encourage new leaders to have a go and also are interested in suggestions for new starting points, subject of course to there being suitable parking. Even moving the start point by a mile opens up the possibility of using different footpaths. Also, thanks to the committee, whose hard work enables us to continue providing a valuable service to the walkers of West Lancashire. I'm still hoping for a volunteer to be Secretary! You just need to be able to take minutes and send emails. Any takers?

Peter.

[Footpath news](#) (see back page).

### [Membership Matters](#)

As ever, many thanks to those (64 of you) who have renewed their memberships for this financial year. May I remind you that, if it helps, you can pay subs by bank transfer as an alternative to cash or cheque.

Our bank details are:-TSB bank; sort code 77-57-01; A/c 30569560; reference <your last name>. This last is important so that we know who paid it. It would also help if you email your 'Gift Aid' status to me through our Gmail address.

I am hoping to replace some of the older photographs on the Website. If any member has pictures that you think would be interesting and of suitable quality please email the originals to me. We will adapt and put them on to the site.

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	Footpath Maintenance Officer	01695 735785

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

LCC has asked for comments on a proposal to divert the former Lydiate FP4 (now Downholland FP4). The diversion is in fact the path which is currently walked. This will regularise the situation and replace a tricky bridge. WLFG has not objected to this.

There are currently several problems in Scarisbrick parish. It is difficult to find the route across Hurlston golf course on either FP24 or FP26 (try to pass to the west of the pond). Also, there is no FP sign on the main Southport Road to show the start of FP26 (walk through the car park of the cafe and locate a gap in the hedge at the back).

FP28 from Hurlston Hall Farm to Moorfield House Farm has virtually disappeared and is potentially dangerous.

FP15 seems to run permanently through a pond. However, FP30 from Pinfold Lane to Primrose Hill is now walkable. Reports have been made to LCC about these paths and about broken stiles on Wrightington FP29a to Harrock Hill windmill.

Work on the Ron Gordon Way (Aughton FP10 from Winifred Lane to St Michael's Church) is due to begin soon.

The broken handrails at the Greetby Hill end of the Smith Way have not yet been repaired, but paint sprayed on the footpath signs on the Smith Way has been cleaned off by the Peak and Northern Footpath Society, who helped us with the establishment of this memorial to Peter and Margaret Smith.

**[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).