

# West Lancashire Footpath Group



**Newsletter 154    December 2019**

## Chairman's Comments

Welcome to our winter programme of walks. As you know, we have had an unusually wet autumn, and much of West Lancashire and surrounding areas seem to be under water. Nevertheless the published programme will proceed as advertised. No need to ask if the walk is happening, just turn up and enjoy! With the earlier dusk leaders will, if necessary, reduce the length to 4+ miles to ensure we return in the light, and if field paths are impassable some more road walking, where possible minor roads, will be used.

As always, many thanks to committee members and to all leaders, without whose hard work we could not continue to provide what I hope you agree is a valuable service to the residents of West Lancashire and surrounding areas.

P.S. We have just received notification from LCC of a new path in Skelmersdale. This is a 25 metre stretch running ENE from between 14 and 16 Elmers Green (from 4991 0652 to 4993 0653). If you live nearby you might like to check it out.

Peter

## Rambles Secretary

As you know, your walk leaders carry out at least one recce prior to leading the group on a walk. It is getting increasingly difficult to find a circular walk without obstructions. At this time of the year we expect mud and puddles, but are regularly finding paths which are completely overgrown, broken stiles and collapsed bridges. Our footpath inspectors try to do something to help - Tommy recently strimmed 'the Lathom Jungle' after that was found to be over head height in bracken

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Website:- [www.westlancsfootpathgroup.org.uk](http://www.westlancsfootpathgroup.org.uk)  
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I tried to complete the Aughton circular for the last programme, but the path from Moor Hall to Graveyard Lane is choked with brambles and impassable. This resulted in a 2 mile walk along Long Lane, a busy road with no pavements, so an alternative walk had to be found. All members can help by reporting problems to Lancashire County Council, either by email to:- [ProwReports@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:ProwReports@lancashire.gov.uk), or by using the Lancashire website. Apparently the site asks you not to report a problem which has previously been reported, which may indicate that there is no weight in numbers of complaints. If you are an RA member you can also report on the Pathwatch App, or involve your local Parish Councillor or even your MP. We can all do our bit by walking local paths and cutting back bracken and brambles where possible.

Ann

### Membership Matters

May I thank all the 60 members who have promptly renewed their subscriptions for the current year to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Please see the back page for further information.

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	Footpath Inspector	01695 576227
Christine Hill	Footpath Inspector	01772 816486
Tommy Wadkin	Footpath Inspector & Maintenance	01695 735785

## **WEST LANCASHIRE FOOTPATH GROUP**

### **FACTS AND FIGURES.**

A few words concerning the way we finance and operate the Group could be useful to members and leaders. It could also help to ensure that we provide all the benefits that a well run society can give to its members.

You will know that our current annual subscription is £5.00 per person, which is adequate to cover our expenses to keep the Website up to date (about £80), insure us against third party and accident claims (about £200) and affiliate us to the national ramblers association (£64).

It also covers the cost of producing and delivering four Newsletters per year. This is negligible if you receive them by e-mail, but can cost up to 90pence per hard copy. Therefore, if you receive your newsletters by post, it doesn't take much calculation to realise that this consumes a large proportion of your subscription, and with ever increasing postage costs could eventually become unsustainable.

There are two ways we recommend that you can help to keep our expenses lower. First, if you have access to email, please let us know so we can send you the Newsletter via the internet and save most of the cost of delivering it. Second, if you pay UK income tax, even if only a minor amount, please "Gift Aid" it, which effectively gives us an extra 25% of the amount paid.

John