

# West Lancashire Footpath Group

Newsletter 152 June 2019



## Chairman's Comments

Welcome to our summer newsletter which includes the programme of walks for June to August.

Michael Smout. I am sorry to inform members that he died in March. Please see the back page for an appreciation.

The annual **Green Fayre** at Beacon Park, Dalton this year is on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July and is organised by West Lancashire Borough Council. As in previous years we will be sharing a stall with the Ramblers. There will be a variety of activities and the event provides a good day out for the family.

**Annual General Meeting** - will be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm in the Bowling Club, Old Skelmersdale. There will be a walk, followed by refreshments and the formal meeting will begin at 7:30 pm. Minutes of the last AGM will be circulated to all members prior to the meeting and we hope you will consider attending.

**Rambles** - Walkers sometimes contact us to ask if the walk is going to happen. This is unnecessary as leaders will always be at the start point at the right time. If the weather is really unsuitable any decision to cancel will be made then, but this has almost never happened.

## Footpath news

Reports since the last newsletter include Downholland FP5 (trees encroaching on the path), Halsall FP12 and BW13 (damaged bridges and signpost), Rufford FP23 (path through a garden blocked with a wheelie bin full of concrete), damaged stiles on the River Douglas embankment in Rufford.

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**Footwear:** Walkers can of course choose for themselves what to wear, but leaders may have a quiet word with anyone wearing flimsy footwear to establish that the walker accepts that it is their responsibility to be suitably shod. WLFG walks are around 5-6 miles, and are mostly on fairly level ground, but can be rough and muddy. Ideally wear boots or strong trainers, preferably giving good ankle support and a tread deep enough to grip on wet and muddy paths. Even in summer the weather can be wet and windy!

Peter.

### Membership Matters

The current membership of the WLFG stands at 88. Renewals are still trickling in.

I would like to encourage all members to keep themselves up to date with the content of our Website. It is very easy to navigate and has a wealth of useful information within it.

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

## The Reverend Canon Michael Smout.

*I am sorry to inform members who do not already know, that Michael died in March aged 82. Many members of this group and the Ramblers attended his funeral at St. Michael's Church, Aughton, where for many years he was vicar.*

*Michael will be greatly missed by the walking community. He was a long-standing friend of WLFG, regularly led walks, and was very knowledgeable about the footpath network. He was also a delightful walking companion. He will always be remembered for the series of books of walks he wrote, and which many of us still use as the basis of our organised walks. These are 'West Lancashire Walks' (1996), 'East Lancashire Walks' (1997), and 'Merseyside Meanders' (2002). They are now out of print but can be obtained online, and the group has copies which can be borrowed.*

*Peter Fletcher.  
Chairman WLFG.*