

West Lancashire Footpath Group



Newsletter 153 September 2019

Chairman's Comments

Please try to come to the AGM. The panel on the back page has all the details. Members with an email address should get an invitation with agenda and minutes beforehand. One issue to discuss will be the pattern of walks. This year's Canal and Countryside walks seem to have gone very well and we now revert to the standard pattern of a Sunday and a Tuesday walk each month.

We look forward to an exciting programme of walking this Autumn and I hope you will all encourage friends to give our walks a try. Walks will be between 4 miles and 6 miles, as far as possible following rights of way or minor roads in West Lancashire and surrounding areas. Our insurance allows guests to walk with us for up to 3 times without joining the group. We again invite all members to consider leading a walk and members of the committee would be happy to help volunteers with planning and reconnoitring a possible walk if requested.

We are frequently asked if members can bring dogs on rambles. Our policy is similar to that of the Ramblers. We welcome well-behaved dogs (and well-behaved owners)! Dogs should be kept on a lead on farm land or near livestock, and on public roads. Long leads are not acceptable because of the possibility of tripping other walkers. There has been a problem with Rufford FP18 past Brick Kiln Farm, where signs were put up referring to a temporary closure and diversion with restrictions on dogs. Lancashire CC have investigated and written that following notice given, officers agreed wording with landowners that request consideration from dog owners but do not imply the footpath is restricted, closed or diverted. If you live in the area please report any change in this situation.

Ramblers' Association have published 'Rights of Way : A Guide to Law and Practice'. With 883 pages it is required bed-time reading for all members! We do have a copy which anyone who is particularly interested in the fine detail is welcome to borrow.

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From page 1.

'Public rights of Way' are open to walkers with 'usual accompaniments'. This has been judged to include a push-chair (perambulator in 1861!) but not a bicycle (even if carried). Dogs are regarded as 'usual accompaniments' to walkers and so can use the same rights of way, but must not stray off the correct line.

Footpath news

Several reports have been made about footpath problems to LCC and parish councils. A full list will be prepared to present at the AGM. However because of the volume of complaints only a small proportion of problems are resolved by the LCC Public Rights of Way team. Reports are prioritised to focus on more serious defects or most heavily used paths. If we regard a problem as serious we need to encourage locals to make their own complaints. Hazards such as broken stiles or bridges, deliberate obstructions or issues of health and safety are clearly more significant than overgrown paths, however annoying they are.

Peter.

Membership Matters

The current membership is 88. May I remind everyone that the new membership year starts 1st October when subscriptions for the next year become due. You will find all the necessary forms with this Newsletter. We urge you to renew a.s.a.p.

John.

Committee Contact Numbers

Peter Fletcher	Chairman and Footpath Inspector	01704 542661
Post currently vacant	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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 12th SEPTEMBER 2019.

You are all invited to attend the proceedings, which will take place
at:-

**The Bowling Club, Witham Road, Old Skelmersdale
WN8 8HW GR468061**

We are grateful to Tommy Wadkin who has provided us with the use of the facilities in the clubhouse and who will lead a short walk from there starting at 6 pm. This will be followed by refreshments provided by the Committee.

The formal business meeting is scheduled to begin at 7.30 pm and be finished by about 9 pm.

We do hope that you will decide to come and give us the benefit of your opinions on any topic that you feel is important to the success of the Group, because it is really only as good and successful as its membership is.

Access to the Bowling Club is circled in the picture.

