

West Lancashire Footpath Group



Newsletter 157 November 2020

Chairman's Comments

I would first like us to remember two old friends of the group, Ron Cheetham and Peter Wiltshire, who died during the last year. Both were associated with WFLG since the early days. Ron dedicated himself to footpath work, was very knowledgeable about the local network and was able to put his legal background to work in opposing diversions and fighting against obstructions and other problems when following Rights of Way. He was Chair of the group for many years. Peter took on the demanding role of organising the walks programme and also had a very good knowledge of the local paths. They will both be remembered fondly by many members.

This has been an unusual year but thanks to the hard work of committee members and leaders we have been able to continue for some of the year. We have relied heavily on the advice of the Ramblers, to whom we are affiliated, and benefit from purchasing a dedicated insurance policy through them. I am grateful to Geoff Wright for the advice he has given us. We agreed to change our Tuesday walks to Wednesdays so that there will be a walk with one of the groups on most Sundays and Wednesdays. We are carefully following government guidelines and for the time-being all walks will stay within the Lancashire boundary. Do try to join us on some of our future walks.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, it has been impossible to hold an AGM in person this year, so the following is the information which the committee would have shared with you. Peter Fletcher (Chair)

Treasurers Report

This year has been a strange one for everyone in view of the Coronavirus, and whilst it has affected the group as a whole our finances are healthy at present. Our income comes from membership subscriptions and the occasional donation. Only about two thirds of our subs money had been received before the virus hit. We have been able to welcome a few new members.

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We hope that most members will choose to renew in January as we have extended the current membership until then. John has managed to claim £368.78 in gift aid covering previous years, which has left our finances in a reasonably healthy state with a bank balance of £715.05. The gift aid rebate will be considerably less in future years.

Karen Jennings (Treasurer)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT -- 01/09/19 – 31/08/20.

<i>Income</i>		<i>Expenditure</i>	
<i>Membership subs</i>	<i>£315.00</i>	<i>Insurance</i>	<i>£216.00</i>
<i>Gift aid refund</i>	<i><u>£368.78</u></i>	<i>Web fees (5 years)</i>	<i>£59.95</i>
		<i>RA affiliation fee</i>	<i><u>£64.00</u></i>
		<i>Total</i>	<i>£339.95</i>
		<i>Plus Surplus</i>	<i><u>£343.83</u></i>
<i>Totals</i>	<i><u>£683.78</u></i>		<i><u>£683.78</u></i>

ASSETS *Balance in bank* £715.05 *Petty cash* £9.00 *Total* £724.05

[Website Manager](#) No changes since last Newsletter.

[Membership Secretary](#) Again, no changes since last Newsletter.

[Rambles Secretary](#)

Thanks to all the leaders who volunteered to lead throughout the year, giving up their time to recce the walks, assess the risks and then lead the walks. Unfortunately, due to the covid pandemic the walks planned from February to August had to be cancelled. The ever-popular Canal & Countryside walks on Wednesday evenings fell into this period and so did not happen. We hope that there will be a C&C programme in 2021. When the rules changed in September our leaders immediately responded to the request to restart, and a full programme was resumed. We adhered to Covid restrictions, limiting numbers and not giving out the start points until people booked on the walks. We are hoping the advertised programme will proceed without further problems but as Lancashire is in the highest risk category, leaders will cancel walks if they feel uneasy leading them. In such a situation we will try to arrange an alternative walk for the same date.

Ann Robinson (Rambles Secretary)

(Update. The Government has cancelled all walks for the duration of the November shut down.)

Footpath Inspectors

It was noticed that some paths actually improved during the lockdown because more people were going out and enjoying the countryside. We continue to report on footpath problems as we encounter them or when members of the public complain to us. Significant improvement has been carried out on the path from Moor Hall, Aughton to Graveyard Lane, Bickerstaffe, with repairs to the bridge and the encroaching vegetation cut back considerably. Repairs have also been carried out on the worst of the bridges on the path from Halsall to Green Kettle Farm. Anyone can report a problem to Lancashire County Council (email to:- ProwReports@lancashire.gov.uk). It helps if you can give the footpath number to clearly identify where the problem is. You might instead like to find out about the <<what3words>> app which has allocated a unique 3 word identifier to every 3m square in the world has identified a house in Mickering Lane, Aughton where a footpath has been built on. This has been reported to LCC.

Election of Committee

The current committee members have agreed to continue in post and as there have been no objections and no other nominations: they are deemed to have been re-elected. Other members can be co-opted if any volunteers are forthcoming.

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
Tommy Wadkin	Footpath Inspector & Maintenance	01695 735785