

# West Lancashire Footpath Group



## NEWSLETTER March 2023

### Chairperson Report

The year has started well for the Footpath Group. At the time of writing all our planned walks for Jan – Mar have gone ahead. There are some lovely pictures on our Facebook page.

Our marketing campaign is underway with West Lancashire Footpath Group “flyers” being delivered throughout West Lancashire by various members. The FPG email account has received enquiries as a direct result.

The Facebook publicity proposing starting some shorter / easier walks; at a slower pace; has also been a success and the first planned walks are included in the April – June programme. Thanks to Ann for suggesting this and to Gwen for taking it forward and devising the routes. These walks will be on Tuesdays, all starting at 1PM.

There are also some standard, early evening walks included in the next programme.

We continue to get enquiries about bringing dogs on walks. We follow Ramblers’ national guidance that says dogs must be on a fixed lead at all times. Each leader has discretion not to allow dogs on their walks; this usually only arises if livestock is present on a route. We now have 51 fully paid up members. One of our walks had 21 attendees, almost back to some pre-Covid numbers.

The group has been invited to bid for some funding to help us with our fixed costs. These include, Insurance, Web hosting costs and an affiliation fee to Ramblers. Members will be advised when we know the outcome.

### Committee issues

Since the last Newsletter in December there has been a change to the committee; Karen Jennings has stepped down as treasurer after a number of years undertaking the role.

Karen will continue as part of the committee and as a walk leader. Many thanks to Karen for all the time and effort she has put into the treasurer role.

David Worrall has taken temporary responsibility as treasurer until a replacement is elected at the AGM.

We also still have a vacancy for Secretary. If anyone would like to undertake one of these roles please contact me, either on a walk or send me a message via the contact us email.

Committee members can be contacted directly through the West Lancashire Footpath Group website, [www.westlancsfootpathgroup.org.uk](http://www.westlancsfootpathgroup.org.uk) using the Contact Us tab.

The committee is also looking at producing a safeguarding policy as this has come up as requirement when bidding for funding. An update will be provided on the web page when it is finalised.

### The walks programme

The next walk programme dates and locations are included below with postcodes, “what 3 words” and grid references.

Date	Leader	Meet
<b>APRIL</b> Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> 1PM	Ann	The Rainford Junction Public House, News Lane, Rainford, 1pm WA117JU, SD476027, ///gross.alarm.trades/// Permission given to use the car park so it would be polite to call in for a drink afterwards.
Tuesday 18th 1PM	Gwen 3 mile walk	Burscough Bridge Station, L400RZ, 1pm SD443132,///occupied.dates.offering
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> 7PM	Geoff	The Boat House, Mill Lane, Appley Bridge. WN69DA, SD523093, ///also.bitter.sunshine/// Park on Heron's Wharf just down from the pub.
<b>May</b> Tuesday 9th 1PM	Gwen 3.5 mile walk	Hesketh Bank Methodist Church, Chapel Rd. PR46YB Sd439235, ///rushed.microchip.relishing///
Sunday 14th 1PM	Avril	Martin Mere, Fish Lane, Burscough, L400TA SD428143, ///dorms.stilted.marsh/// Please use the overflow car park.
Wednesday 31st 7PM	Joan & Geoff	Bramble Way C.P. Parbold, WN87SZ SD494104, ///appetite.dame.typed///
<b>June</b> Sunday 11th 1PM	Karen	Royal Oak Park on Back Lane off Simonswood Lane, L396SZ, SD421030, ///community.reach.errupted///
Tuesday 20th 1PM	Gwen 3.3 mile walk	3.3ml. Haskayne Village Hall, School Lane L397JE. SD535296. ///improves.piled.squirted///
Wednesday 28th 7PM	Gwen	The Saracen's Head, Summerwood Lane, Halsall L400RT, SD376098, ///reckon.rant.decanter///

#### A message from Ann, Ramble Secretary

Thank you all for your continuing support, we wouldn't be a walking group without walkers, but we would not be able to walk without leaders. I'm delighted to say that we have welcomed new leaders during the past year or so, and have offers to maybe lead in future, but we still need more help.

Some of our leaders and members are getting older and less able to walk the distance and maintain the pace. Gwen has offered to organize a shorter, more leisurely walk each month, but alongside that we need some younger, more active members to begin to renew

the group. Without younger people coming in the group becomes less able to sustain its role, ensuring that local paths are kept open and accessible for future generations. If you are a new member, through publicity or Facebook would you consider volunteering to lead a future walk? Many of you might have found a walk during lockdown or where you walk with friends and family. It would be lovely if you could offer to share it with the group it is not too onerous a task. You need to walk the route yourself in advance and note any hazards or risks. Any of our current leaders would be pleased to accompany you to make sure you are confident. On the day you welcome the group and introduce yourself, then give a brief outline of the route. During the walk you ensure that the group does not lose sight of you, ask for a back marker if the group is large, stop for water and tea breaks and ensure all return safely.

If you would be willing to try this out please contact me. We normally walk on the second Sunday and last Wednesday of each month, I'd love to hear from you.

Ann

The walk programme is sent out by email to FPG members. It is also available on the webpage.

[www.westlancsfootpathgroup.org.uk](http://www.westlancsfootpathgroup.org.uk)

### **Footpath Officer Report**

Below is a copy of the response from PROW to the report about the missing sign at Banks. Footpath number is 8-12-FO 58.

I am still waiting to hear about my Mere Brow issue. I will put an update for reported issues on the website. Any members considering reporting something to us could perhaps check there first.

“Thank you for contacting Lancashire County Council regarding a missing, damaged, or failing fingerpost indicating a public right of way.

We maintain the roadside signposts in a different manner to other aspects of managing the network of public paths and byways. Signposts are checked, repaired, or replaced on a district-wide project basis rather than individually when they are reported.

We, therefore, no longer record individual reports concerning fingerposts, as any problems should be picked up by the district-wide survey that precedes each project.”

Regards

Public Rights of Way Team  
Lancashire County Council

### **Communications with members.**

In addition to the Newsletter the web page has a recent news column.

[www.westlancsfootpathgroup.org.uk](http://www.westlancsfootpathgroup.org.uk) the contact us tabs are really useful and enable contact to the various committee members directly by email.

Our email address is:

[westlancashirefootpathgroup@gmail.com](mailto:westlancashirefootpathgroup@gmail.com)

We are all getting better at monitoring and responding to these enquiries.

The Facebook page 'West Lancashire Footpath Group' is increasing in popularity and Ann and David regularly publish pictures taken on walks. These show some of the pleasant and sometimes unusual sights we see whilst out.

## **Committee from Feb 2023**

Chair: Gaynor Culshaw 07779 089 507

Secretary: **Post Vacant**

Treasurer: Temporary David Worrall 07809 704999

Member: Karen Jennings 07383 105920

Membership Secretaries: Marcia & David Worrall 07809 704999

Rambles Secretary: Ann Robinson 07443 533354

Website Manager: Eric Crichton

Footpath Inspectors: Doreen Bird 07746 014671 and Gwen Veevers 07719 889210

**Registered Charity Number 511764**