

West Lancashire Footpath Group



NEWSLETTER October 2023

Chairperson Report

At the time of writing this Newsletter we are approaching the end of the July, August and September walk programme. It has been a very enjoyable season of walks. The weather has thrown everything at us now expected of an English summer. Only one walk didn't go ahead as planned; but the 4 stalwarts who attended enjoyed a drink and interesting conversation in the Running Horses pub instead. The Green Fayre, due to be on Saturday and Sunday 23rd and 24th July was cancelled on 24th because of the adverse weather conditions at Beacon Country Park. The stand shared, with West Lancashire Ramblers, reported a low turnout on the Saturday.

The Group has been approached by Open Spaces Society and their Local Correspondent Ken Sharpe attended the August committee meeting. They are the oldest national conservation body and they can assist local communities so that they can safeguard their green spaces. The committee agreed a willingness to support Open Spaces Society. There is no financial burden on the footpath group. Chris Rimmer agreed to liaise with Ken over a couple recent footpath issues. Our involvement will be in the West Lancashire area.

The Footpath Group has renewed its affiliation to Ramblers. David will be the named contact this year.

- savings of up to 40% on Howdens comprehensive liability insurance*
- opportunities to help shape the Ramblers policy in your local area
- inspiration, news, support and advice via a free subscription to our quarterly Walk magazine
- boost your skills and knowledge with [Ramblers Stride](#) – our e-learning hub featuring interactive online courses at a special discounted price for your club

Individuals being members of Ramblers doesn't include membership of the footpath group. This question has come up on walks recently and also on the Facebook page. Our main benefit is the insurance discount.

Notice of AGM

As a result of the arrangements made during Covid the timetabling of our AGM became out of line with our Charity Commission and Constitution requirements. Therefore the committee has arranged for an **AGM** to be held on Sunday 12th November 2023 at 11:30am. It will be held at Haskayne Village Hall, School Lane, Haskayne. L39 7JE. There is a quorum for the meeting of at least 12 members. The viability of the group relies on as many members as possible attending and participating in the meeting. Please attend if at all possible.

Tea and coffee will be available. Bring your lunch and join us on the walk starting at 1pm.

Committee issues

The committee can be contacted either by phone or through the web page, "contact us" tab www.westlancsfootpathgroup.org.uk via email.

We still have a vacancy for Secretary. If anyone would be willing to undertake this role please contact me, either on a walk or send me a message via the contact us email.

The walks programme

The summer walk programme, with the new shorter easier walks and the evening walks has been a success. A big thank you to Gwen and the volunteer leaders. Attendee numbers have ranged between 3 and 20. Facebook has proved a valuable advertising space for the walks.

We are going to trial just putting the next walk programme dates into the Newsletter rather than the full itinerary. The programme will still be sent out by email, it will appear on the website and also on our Facebook page. Hopefully this will avoid any confusion over late changes or amendments. The details are below:

8 th Oct	17 th Oct	25 th Oct	12 th Nov	21 st Nov	22 nd Nov	10 th Dec	19 th Dec	27 th Dec
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All the walks will start at 1PM, it is perhaps worth mentioning 1pm is the departure time not the meeting time. Don't forget you have to get your boots on!

The 12th Nov walk will be after the AGM. The 10th Dec walk will be followed by an opportunity to for refreshments.

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

www.westlancsfootpathgroup.org.uk

The details for refreshments after the walks on 10 December 2023 are:

Old Hollow Farm

Old Hollow Lane, Banks, PR9 8DR.

Janet Baxter will provide, soup, sandwich and cake for £10 per person. Prosecco will be £2 extra.

Booking, via Gwen Veevers is required by 1 December 2023 with a non-refundable deposit of £6. The deposit to be paid into the West Lancashire Footpath Group bank account please.

West Lancashire Footpath Group
Lloyds Bank
Sort code: 309950
Account number: 51562460

The walk programme for January 2024 to March 2024 is being planned. If any members would consider leading a walk this would make a big difference to the viability of the group. Support is available from current leaders and committee members.

Footpath Officer Report

Reports to PROW have been made throughout the last quarter on 9th July, 1st August and 24th August. The full information is available on the Reported Problems page of the website. The group keeps a log of the cases it reports. If you have reported anything

quoting being on a walk with or doing a recci for the group please let Gwen know so we can track the result.

Communications with members.

The newsletter, website and email are now well established for our communications to members. The Facebook page is proving popular although there is some confusion over joining the Facebook page and becoming a paid member of the group. Chris and David follow up on this if none members attend walks. We are looking at the viability of including a link to the membership form on the Facebook page. It will continue to be used for diary updates.

The website has been updated but is still a work in progress. Chris has managed to update the home page and include a slide show of some more recent photographs. If you have any feedback please let us know.

A link to the website is included here: www.westlancsfootpathgroup.org.uk
The contact us tabs are really useful and enable contact to the various committee members directly by email. There is also now a link to the Facebook page from the website.

Our email address is:

westlancashirefootpathgroup@gmail.com

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

A link to Facebook is attached which will invite you to join the group. At present the group is private.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/267065369061420/>

Committee from 14 May 2023

Chair: Gaynor Culshaw 07779 089 507

Secretary: **Post Vacant**

Treasurer: Peter Fletcher 07925582891

Membership Secretary: David Worrall 07809 704999

Rambles Secretary: Gwen Veevers 07719 889210

Website Manager: Chris Rimmer 07775 615048

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

Registered Charity Number 511764