



NEWSLETTER June 2024

Chairperson Report

March, April and May 2024 have been some of the wettest months lots of us can remember, but we have still succeeded in running the full planned walk programme. This has been due to the dedication of the walk leader volunteers who have gone above and beyond to find suitable paths, often doing reconnaissance walks 2 or 3 times.

The committee sent a letter of thanks to Eric Crichton for his help and support with the website. This brings to an end his involvement in the group.

The approach from West Lancashire Council to the footpath group regarding involvement in the anniversary of D day and the War Horse Walk didn't materialise.

For a number of years the group haven't made a claim to HMRC for Gift Aid on the annual subscriptions paid by members. The committee have reviewed this quite complicated process and have decided that at present with numbers of members we have not to go ahead and claim. However we will retain the authorisation on the membership form and review our decision later in the year.

Earlier in the year West Lancashire CVS announced an opportunity for voluntary organisations to nominate someone in their organisation for their outstanding contribution to volunteering.

I am really pleased to let you know that Gwen Veevers has been successful.

The committee nominated Gwen because of the dedication she has shown over a number of years both as the walk coordinator for the group and as a footpath officer. Both these roles are intrinsic to the ethos of West Lancashire Footpath Group. Well done Gwen.

Committee issues

The "contact us" and "join us" tabs on the web site have now been updated providing a link to an Office form which will go direct to our web manager Chris for action. These forms have the questions / answers needed for membership purposes. The email address below can still be used for more generic enquiries to the committee.

westlancashirefootpathgroup@gmail.com

The committee has discussed the roles of treasurer and membership secretary and see the way forward as combining the roles. After further checking of protocol a decision will be made at the next committee meeting.

The walks programme

The walk programme continues to be popular with members both old and new. The plan to incorporate some new routes and / or variations to tried and tested ones has been successful.

The first of the evening walks this year was held on a very wet day but people turned up to walk and Joan & Geoff managed to adjust the route to accommodate the very difficult conditions. Well done to the intrepid leaders and walkers.

The July to September programme will be sent out by email with the Newsletter and will appear on the website and Facebook at the same time. The website walk programme is updated with any changes that have to be made during the quarter. Any major changes will also be notified by email to members.

www.westlancsfootpathgroup.org.uk

As usual in the Newsletter there is an appeal for walk leaders as leaders are essential for the group to operate successfully. If you would consider being a leader, please contact any committee member or Gwen directly.

It is perhaps worth mentioning that the start time on the programme is the departure time not the "meeting" time. Don't forget you have to get your boots on!

Footpath Officer Report.

Four new issues have been reported to Public Rights of Way (PROW) during April and May 2024. The details and pictures are available on the reported problems tab on the website.

There have also been four satisfactory outcomes to issues reported earlier this year; including the installation of a kissing gate replacing a stile and replacement steps and handrail on a path which had been a longstanding problem in Halsall. The before and after pictures are very interesting. These are an example of the dedication of the footpath officers and leaders who report and do follow up.

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 non-members attend walks. As mentioned earlier in the Newsletter a link to the membership form is now available on the Facebook page and an explanation of membership is included in the welcome message which goes to people who join the Facebook page.

Our email address is:

westlancashirefootpathgroup@gmail.com

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 12 November 2023

Chair: Gaynor Culshaw 07779 089 507

Secretary: Mary Ellis 07896 162950

Treasurer: Peter Fletcher 07925582891

Membership Secretary: David Worrall 07932 694037

Walk Coordinator: Gwen Veevers 07719 889210

Website Manager: Chris Rimmer 07775 615048

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

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