



WEST LANCASHIRE FOOTPATH GROUP

*Registered Charity number 511764*

## NEWSLETTER December 2025

### ***Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2026***

#### **Chairperson's Report:**

Once again I am happy to be able to report another successful quarter's walk programme. With one more walk due on Friday 28 December 2025.

The programme has been varied and the popularity has been rewarding for the committee.

The AGM held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November was well attended and the committee for 2026 was unanimously elected. As is becoming a regular request, an appeal for extra walk leaders and volunteers to join the committee was announced. It is becoming important that 2 or 3 more people get involved in order to future proof the success of the group.

As was mentioned in the last newsletter and at the AGM, subscriptions are now due for renewal for 2026. The membership year runs from January to December. This year we have been able to maintain the £5 subscription for individual membership and £10 for a family membership.

The Christmas social took place after the walk on Sunday 14 December, with 21 people undertaking the walk and staying for refreshments after.

#### **Footpath Issues:**

We have continued to have some good results from issues reported to the Public Right of Way (PROW) team. With reports being actioned enabling 2 walks in the last quarter to be undertaken; one in Downholland & Lydiate the other starting at Holmeswood Village Hall.

The two campaigns that the group are involved in are still ongoing, Halsall and Mickering Lane, Bowkers Green in Aughton. Open Spaces Society are providing the expertise, fact-finding and correspondence on these. The Halsall issue is a very long- standing case which we approached Open Spaces about, asking them for help. Mickering Lane

Aughton has been an issue for a number years but the landowner has now asked for the definitive path to be moved. We are objecting to this.

**In the last week we have received a notification from PROW consulting on an application to divert part of a right of way in the vicinity of Eavesdale Family and Children Wellbeing service, Eavesdale, Tanhouse, Skelmersdale. WN8 6AU, grid reference SD350099 405888. If any members have any information or opinions about this change please contact a committee member. PROW want a response by 5 Jan 2026.**

#### **Treasurer Update:**

The affiliation fee to Ramblers has now been paid for another year.

As a result of the support we have received from Open Spaces, and their involvement at a national level in the Mickering Lane case, **the committee have voted to pay an annual subscription to this charity.** The local representative will continue to work on the Halsall case.

**Any member who books and pays for a Ramblers Worldwide Holiday (RWH) can now nominate West Lancashire Footpath Group as their chosen beneficiary of the donation made by the company to walking groups. Please consider doing this as it can be a significant amount which would mean a lot to a small group like ours. It doesn't impact on any rewards individuals accrue.**

#### **Website and Facebook update:**

Both the website and Facebook group have continued to run smoothly. A google search does go straight to an AI result but the site is actually on this platform.

<https://e-voice.org.uk/westlancashirefootpathgroup/> adding it to your favourites should ensure you don't need to have any concerns when accessing it.

The events tabs on both the website and Facebook are where you will see the walk programme and any latest update about the walks.

#### **Walk Programme update:**

A copy of the walk programme for **January to March 2026** will be included with the Newsletter email. Any updates to the programme eg length of walk or leader will be posted on the website and Facebook; only significant changes will be sent out to a member's email address.

Some clarification is included below about an issue that was raised on our Facebook page recently.

Whilst the walk programme is agreed and published in advance by the walk coordinator and the committee; **the final control of the walk is with the leader who has planned and risk assessed it including the conditions on the day. Decisions over the suitability for walkers to be accompanied by their dogs is done on a walk-by-walk basis. Members wanting to bring dogs along should check with the leader in advance.**

Below is some information from Rights of Way: A guide to Law and Practice.

"A dog is considered as a usual accompaniment of a foot passenger.

But the entitlement to take a dog on a public right of way is confined to the line of the path, and exists whilst the dog is accompanying its owner or keeper. Thus if the dog is allowed to run around off the path, trespass is committed against the owner of the land."

**West Lancashire Footpath Group has some longstanding practices, we request that dogs are kept on short, fixed leads throughout the walk. That they don't bother other walkers. If we are aware in advance that livestock or guard dogs will be encountered on a walk we give advance notice that dogs shouldn't be brought along.**

**Communications with members:**

**Our website is:**

<https://e-voice.org.uk/westlancashirefootpathgroup/>

**Our email address is:**

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

**Our Facebook link is attached.**

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

**Committee from 2 November 2025:**

Chairperson: Gaynor Culshaw

Secretary: Mary Ellis

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: David Worrall

Walk Coordinator: Gwen Veevers

Website Manager and Facebook Administration: Chris Rimmer

Footpath Inspectors: Doreen Bird and Gwen Veevers

Member: Neil Ellis

**Registered Charity Number**

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