



NEWSLETTER March 2025

Welcome to Our New Members in 2025

Chairperson Report

The group has had a good start to the New Year with six successful walks completed at the time of writing this newsletter. There are three walks still available in this quarter. The next programme will be sent out with this Newsletter. It will also be posted on our Facebook page. Chris posts an event on Facebook about a week before the next walk is due with a picture and detailed up to date information on the route provided by the walk leader.

As part of our effort as a committee to meet our Charity Status our account of income and expenditure for the period 1 Oct 2023 – 30 Sept 2024 has now been submitted and can be seen on the Charity Commission website.

We have also posted our Constitution document (created 27 Oct 2001) onto our website following guidance from the Commission.

For a number of years the West Lancashire Footpath Group has paid an affiliation fee to Ramblers. As a benefit of this we have now been added to The Walking Partnership.

Welcome to The Walking Partnership – West Lancashire Footpath Group

Thank you for your recent application to join The Walking Partnership, supported by Ramble Worldwide.

Holiday Type

UK holidays

Short haul holidays

Long haul holidays

Contribution

£10 per person booked

£20 per person booked

£30 per person booked.

Whilst this won't result in a reduction in price of your holiday with Ramble Worldwide the donation to the group would help maintain our annual membership subscription charges.

Treasurer Report

Explanation of our Funds

At our most recent AGM a question arose over the use of our available funds. The WLFG operate under charitable status and therefore need to cover all of our outgoings predominantly through our (small) Membership Fee.

We do have a few 'fixed' costs for which, it is felt, clarification is needed:

All of our walks for Members and Visitors are covered by a comprehensive insurance policy in the event of an unfortunate occurrence during the walk. Currently, through our

paid affiliation to the Ramblers' Association, by using their nationally agreed Insurance Policy WLFG receive a preferential premium. Having compared this figure with costings received from independent insurance providers it is clear that it is to our advantage to remain within the arrangements through the Ramblers' Association Policy. In practical terms this means that the Group pay a membership fee to the Ramblers' Association that enables WLFG to enjoy a comprehensive insurance policy for a combined cost less than that which could be achieved by entering into a direct independent agreement with an insurance provider.

Additionally, we are required to pay fees for the hosting of our website and domain register. In today's modern world electronic communication provided the Group with the most effective means to communicate with Members and provide you with the very latest information on our Walk Programme. It also reduces the high costs associated with any correspondence that may, in the past, have been sent out through the Royal Mail.

Your Treasurer continues to monitor the availability of grants, or other additional income streams, and will submit applications as, and when, appropriate to reduce any financial burden on the membership

We are continually looking at ways to minimise our Group expenditure, to ensure our Membership fees remains extremely competitive, providing value for money, whilst taking into account the number of walks organised on your behalf throughout the year.

Subscriptions:

Our preferred method is via BACS payment to our account:

West Lancashire Footpath Group
Lloyds
Sort Code: 30 99 50
A/c Number: 51 56 24 60

However, if this isn't possible payment can be sent by cheque or cash to David Worrall at:
6 Belsfield Drive,
Hesketh Bank,
Lancashire. PR4 6YB.

Please remember to include the name of the members the payment covers.

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 details have been updated to include Neil Ellis who volunteered to become a committee member after the AGM in Dec2024. Thank you Neil.

The Walk Programme

The programme for April – June 2025 will be sent out with this Newsletter, posted on the website and our Facebook page.

Footpath Report.

There are two ongoing cases that we are involved with:

- Halsall footpath 28. With support from Open Spaces Society and Halsall Parish Council we are hoping to resolve the longstanding issue of this footpath terminating in a dead end.

If any members could provide evidence of getting through to Plex Lane and the route they used please let someone on the committee know. This will help in our discussions with Public Rights Of Way.

- Aughton Mickering Lane FP18. A definitive map modification request has been submitted by the landowner to move this path. The committee of the footpath group and Open Spaces Society have registered objections on the grounds of loss of amenity and health and safety of the proposed new route.

If any members or residents of Aughton could provide support for the objection, please let someone on the committee know. This path is part of a regular walk undertaken by the footpath and other groups but is regularly diverted because of unclear signage and obstacles on the route.

Communications with members

Our email address is:

westlancashirefootpathgroup@gmail.com

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

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

Committee from 25 February 2025

Chair: 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 511764