



WFLG

WEST LANCASHIRE FOOTPATH GROUP

Registered Charity number 511764

Newsletter October 2025

Chairperson's Report:

This newsletter is a bit early but it is due to holiday arrangements and the need to get the walk programme circulated before it starts on 12 October that it is being done now.

I am happy to be able to report another successful quarter for the footpath group. We have almost completed another varied walk programme and have the details for the next quarter ready for distribution with this Newsletter.

The evening walks were popular and the glorious weather has been a bonus throughout the summer.

Our AGM is planned for Sunday 2 November 2025 starting at 12:00, in Holmeswood Village Hall. It will be followed by a choice of two walks: a 3.8m or a 5.25m. An email invite will go out to all members closer to the date. It is vital that some members attend to hear the reports from the committee and vote. We need a quorum for this to meet our constitution requirements, insurance responsibilities and charitable status.

Nobody will be pressed into taking up a role within the group.

It might seem early to be mentioning this but we will be requesting membership renewal for 2026 at the AGM on Sunday 2 Nov 2025. The fee will remain at £5 single and £10 for a family. A reminder email will be sent closer to the time.

The Christmas social will be on Sunday 14 December at 13:30, after the walk on that day, which will start at 11:15 am. The venue will be **Hesketh Bank Community Centre**. Booking and food choices will be needed by Gwen before 1st December. The menu choice will be sent under separate email. Soup and sandwiches £6, Hotpot £6. Apple pie £1. Tea and coffee included. The bar will be open for drinks as well.

In June I was able to nominate just 2 people from our group for the West Lancashire CVS volunteer awards. It was very difficult making a choice. CVS actually accepted 3 nominations and they attended a ceremony and received a certificate each from West Lancashire Mayor Cllr Anne Fennell.

Seriously Advance Notice.

The footpath group was founded in 1977 so the 50th anniversary will be in 2027.

The committee would like to find a way commemorate it.

The Smith Way in Ormskirk was named after the group founders and there is a bench on Clieves Hill commemorating an earlier anniversary of the group. The bench is in a poor state of repair but still usable.

If anyone has any suggestions of how we could mark this next "milestone" please share it with a committee member, on a walk, via email or at the AGM.

Footpath updates:

There have been some really good results come in during the last quarter from the reports sent to Public Rights of Way (PROW). Some have been sorted quicker than others. We plan to include the newly reopened Banks footpath in the January to March 2026 programme. That path was fought for over many years by local residents with the footpath group providing some support.

Footpath 0804032 from Greens Lane has now been cleared by PROW and will be included in our walk, along with the C&R Trust, on 26 Nov 2025.

The photographs of both these paths can be seen on our website in the Case Studies section.

The committee and the membership would like to thank Kath from PROW who has done a great job in co-ordinating the clear up work on these paths.

Treasurers update:

The group has successfully claimed four years of Gift Aid from HMRC. It was received in August after a very protracted process. The amount is over £250 and will go towards our insurance premium for 2026 due in February. Many thanks to David for persevering with this.

We are pleased to announce that due the gift aid and the new improved website; which has resulted in an end to our web hosting annual fee; we are able to confirm that the membership fee for 2026 will remain as £5 for single and £10 for family membership.

Web & Facebook update:

The new website was successfully launched at the end of July 2025. Chris has worked very hard to produce a much improved site with all the old favourite information and modern ways to view the walk programme.

The Facebook page achieved its 1000 member this quarter. Most of our new paid up members became aware of the group via a Facebook post.

Walk Programme update:

A copy of the walk programme for October to December 2025 will be included with the Newsletter email.

The walk on 2 November will be preceded by the AGM.

The walk on 14th December will be followed by an opportunity to socialise with a buffet and drink. Advance booking for this is needed. See the information in the chairperson section of this newsletter.

After the success of the walk last year in collaboration with the Canal & River Trust, we are pleased to announce another joint outing with them on 26 November 2025. See the details on the walk programme.

Communications with members.

Our website is:

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

Our email address is:

westlancashirefootpathgroup@gmail.com

Our Facebook link is attached.

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

Committee from 25 February 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

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