

REDSPEARLANDS FOOTPATH GROUP

Monitoring Rights of Way in the Parish of Dalston

Redspearlands Footpath Group – Newsletter Number 1

Meeting A cold and frosty evening saw friends of Dalston's footpaths and bridleways gathered at Primrose Hall for the Group's inaugural meeting. The speaker for the evening was Andrew Nicholson, a countryside officer with East Cumbria Countryside Project, who entertained members with a slide presentation covering the Project's numerous activities. Of particular interest were examples of maintenance, improvement and restoration work and, regrettably, enforcement action where a right of way had been deliberately or neglectfully obstructed. However, it was encouraging to note that, in the dozen or so years since he began working for the Project, Andrew had noticed a significant improvement in the attitude of farmers and landowners towards rights of way that cross their land, and by walkers and riders in observing their obligations to act responsibly when using RoWs.

Membership Anyone who supports public Rights of Way, uses them, or would like to be part of a small group walking or riding over the fine network of footpaths and bridleways in the Parish of Dalston, is very welcome to become a member. Our aim is simply to see that these ancient rights of way are regularly used, maintained and respected. Group walks are held from May to October, sometimes jointly with Ivegill's footpath group in their neck of the woods. Occasional work parties will be held to control undergrowth and/or overgrowth, and there will be a programme of speakers to keep us entertained during the winter months. The annual membership is £4 single, £6 double. Application forms are available from All Saints and St. Michaels churches, Dalston Library and online at the Dalston website - www.dalston.org.uk

Date of Next Meeting It is hoped that someone from the Countryside Agency will be coming to talk on the subject of Open Access. Date to be announced, so keep an eye on this space, Parish notice boards or the website.