

Redspearlands Footpath Group

Member's Newsletter - June 2005

May Walk As forecast last month (and without any supergraphics) we had a superb day for our first walk of the year on 14 May. The sun shone, it was dry underfoot *and* overhead, and the Cumbrian countryside had reached a peak of springtime perfection. Together with members of Ivegill Footpath Group, we set off from Raughton Head school heading down the hill to Rose Bridge, along the Cumbria Way as far as Bog Bridge, then up hill, track and lonning for our rendezvous with a sumptuous tea in the garden of Pat and Alan Jackson at Haythwaite House. A wonderful afternoon and definitely one for the memory bank.

Waymarking One way in which the Group is able to assist farmers to avoid the problem of people walking where they shouldn't is by waymarking Rights of Way. We have a small pot of money raised by grants and subscriptions with which we can produce notices asking people to keep dogs on a lead and to stay on the footpath or bridleway. Signs may not always have the desired effect - some people are beyond hope - but the majority will take heed. Farmers wanting help of this sort should call Judith on 016974 76467.

Health Walks Just to say that the Group has received a very nice letter from Sister Judith Brannen, Cumberland Infirmary's BHF Cardiac Liaison Nurse, applauding our Health Walks initiative. Having myself been 'rehabbed' twice by this lady, I can vouch for the efficacy of her department's treatment. (Thinks. Had I walked more after the first rehabbing I may not have needed the second one).

Philosophical Walks Seen in a waiting-room copy of the FT's weekend magazine, an outfit called Philosophy for All (www.pfalondon.co.uk) is offering led walks in and around London during which participants can talk about ideas or pose questions. Example: Do women think differently from men?

Now why didn't we think of that! Well, there will be another opportunity this month on the walk from Bog Bridge to Bell Bridge taking place, as ever, on the second Saturday, which I am told is the 11 June. Anyway, shouldn't the question be, *Why* do women think differently from men?

Lost Ways Project Surveying for this and the parallel Dalston Parish RoW survey will be getting into gear any time now. Volunteer surveyors will be fanning out across the parish to report on the condition of every footpath, bridleway and byway recorded on the Definitive Map, and to report any ancient ways that are not presently recorded. Farmers or

landowners are being sent a card giving an approximate date of an individual survey, but as we do not have all their names and addresses we won't be able to advise absolutely everyone.

Footpath Improvement Work East Cumbria Countryside Project has commenced undertaking essential maintenance work to FP114040 running from Thrangholm Bridge to Stockdalewath Bridge. Anyone who knows this very attractive path and has tried to negotiate it recently will appreciate why the work was so essential. Andrew Nicholson, ECCP's Countryside Officer, has asked if the Group would be able to muster a volunteer work party for light maintenance duties once they have finished the major works. Please contact Judith (016974 76467) if you are willing to participate. Mechete wielders especially welcome.

Photographic Competition The thinking is to have a display of members photography as a means of livening up our AGM next year. The only rules are for the subject matter to be on a theme of Right of Way usage (not necessarily the enjoyment of), and for the locations to be within the Parish of Dalston.

Judging will probably be by someone from one of the two Carlisle Photographic Societies and, depending on the Treasurer's end of year audit, there may be valuable prizes on offer. So, plenty of justification for taking a camera with you when out walking or riding - you never know when a prize-winning shot will be there for the taking.

Happy walking.
Alan, Hon. Sec.

***Stop Press** The footpath mentioned above, FP114040, was reported blocked approximately 50m in from the roadside at Stockdalewath Bridge. The obstruction, a hefty ash tree that had fallen on top of a ladder stile reducing it to matchwood, has been cleared. There's no evidence that anyone was actually using the stile at the time! Should any other cases of obstruction come to light, please report them to Judith so clearance work can be requested from the authorities.*