

Redspearlands Footpath Group

Newsletter #6 - July 2005

June Walk Report Judith Mandale, RFG chairman and walk leader writes: Yet another good day for the walk. Party comprised 11 walkers plus me; the Donalds, the Greens, Sue Chapman and mum-in-law, Shirley, plus daughters Emily and Lydia; Kathleen Harrington and mum, Doreen Ward; and Stuart visiting from Ivegill Footpath Group. We set off soon after 2:00pm down Haythwaite Lane to Bog Bridge. At Bog Bridge we halted for the group to gather, then a nice walk along the river with Glenys taking intermittent photos; mixed wild flowers spotted, different bird song including the plaintiff calls of oystercatchers when they thought we were too close to 'their nest site'. In the last field a lamb in distress was spotted and the farmer notified - turned out it had heat-stroke, for which it had already been treated, but was not expected to 'do well'. Back to the road and up the hill onwards to 'Windyfell' where Dennis and Glenysa provided ice-cream and juice, then continued back along Haythwaite lane to our cars. The walk was enjoyed by all.

Forthcoming Walks in Detail The walks are: 9th July - Raughton Head School, Vicarage Hill, Rose Bridge; FP114012 (Cumbria Way) to Holm Hill; BW114013 and white roads to Raughtonhead Hill then return by road to the school. 13th August - Primrose Hall, up the hill to FP114025 to Bird's Hill; road to Sprunston (in neighbouring parish) FP129025/114054; on road to FP114024 Moordyke and Raughton; return by road to Gaitsgill. Attached to the electronic version of this newsletter are two maps showing the routes (definitive lines) of the footpaths (FP) and bridleways (BW) we shall be following. Dalston's Public Rights of Way always commence with the figures 114. Readers of the printed version of this newsletter can view the maps on the Dalston website - www.dalston.org.uk/organisations The maps have been copied from Cumbria County Council's Definitive Map (DM) which hasn't been updated since 1976! Whilst most people are familiar with Ordnance Survey maps such as Explorer and Landranger, many will never have seen a DM or even have needed to. The significance of the DM in matters of Rights of Way protection, however, is extensive and a general outline of the main definitions is given below. NB: this info has been lifted from the Countryside Agency website and can be taken as accurate.

Definitive map The legal record of public rights of way (footpaths, bridleways, roads used as public paths (RUPPs), and byways open to all traffic (BOATs). Restricted byways will be shown on definitive maps in due course. Warning - not all rights of way are yet shown on definitive maps, so a way not on the definitive map may still be a right of way. Also a way, which is shown on the definitive map, may not have all the public's rights yet recorded, e.g. a way shown on the map as a footpath may really be a bridleway. **Definitive statement** A statement that accompanies the definitive map. Where it contains specific information about a route shown on the map such as its position or width, that information is conclusive evidence as to, for example, the position or width of the right of way. The statement does not have priority over the definitive map, nor does the map have priority over the statement.

Footpath A public right of way for walkers and wheelchair users other than at the side of a carriageway (see footway). Some individuals may have private rights to ride horses, bicycles or drive vehicles along the same way. **Footway** The legal term for what is usually referred to as a pavement - a right of way on foot at the side of a road or carriageway. **Green lane** A descriptive term for a way. It is normally used where the way is bounded by hedges or stone walls, and where the surface is not, or does not appear to be, metalled or otherwise surfaced (sometimes there is an old surface under the grass or mud). **Highway** Any way over which the public have a right to pass and re-pass. (*A bridleway is therefore as much a highway as the M6, except that horses aren't permitted on motorways.*) **Highway verge** An area of unsurfaced land adjoining the surfaced part of a carriageway and forming part of the carriageway. **Rights of Way Improvement Plan** A plan that a highway authority is required to produce under the CROW Act. It will enable highway authorities to plan for the improvement of the local rights of way network. Guidance will be given by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. **White road** A term used to describe a way shown as a track (double lines) on an Ordnance Survey map but without the infill colouring used by OS to show either 'A' or 'B' roads of a certain width and surface, and where it is not recorded on the definitive map as a right of way. On OS maps, those white roads with public access are shown as a series of green (Landranger) and red (Explorer) dots.

More RoW info next month; until then, happy walking and/or riding-