

REDSPEARLANDS FOOTPATH GROUP

Newsletter #2 - February 2006

GOOD NEWS The slight delay in getting out this month's newsletter is due to an embargo on the news release of our successful application to the **Awards for All** national lottery fund. A grant of £2,135 has been awarded in support of the Group's RoW maintenance and improvement programme. Our Treasurer has banked the cheque, hence the reason for the broad smile on his face.

MORE GOOD NEWS Also subject to an embargo is news of volunteer for the job of Chairman, taking over from Judith as at 31 March. To quote from a Marx Brothers film (which some may be able to recall) 'the party of the third part' hasn't quite given a final yes, but by a mixture of bribery and blackmail I am confident an announcement will be forthcoming next month.

DALSTON RIGHTS OF WAY SURVEY 2005 The Dalston website is displaying a range of material connected with the 2005 Survey. Go to www.dalston.org.uk/organisations to view and/or download any of the docs, or to have a look at some of the photos taken on last year's activities.

CUMBRIA RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN The Highways Authority is inviting written suggestions for improvements to the RoW network *anywhere in the county*, including the Lake District National Park and the Yorkshire Dales National Park. RFG is co-ordinating suggestions on behalf of Dalston Parish Council, but that doesn't mean that individuals cannot put forward their own ideas. Suggestion Forms are available from me (Alan) but is worth pointing out that a fair amount of detail is asked for, with each submission being scored under headings such as: Education, Health, Local Economy, Sustainable Transport, Social Inclusion and Environment. Suggestions have to be lodged with Cumbria C.C. by the 28th of this month. Good Luck! (NB. There's a lot of additional information about ROWIP on RFG's page on the Dalston website)

FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE One of the reasons more people do not make use of RoW is that they find them poorly maintained. According to the Ramblers' Association, not a single local authority in England and Wales maintains its footpaths, bridleways and byways to the standard required by law. Dalston, for example, hasn't one bridleway that can be ridden from end to end on a horse or pedal cycle. There would be more than a few complaints if this were the standard applied to the roads and lanes in the parish. The Cumbria Association of Local Councils has the subject of Footpath Maintenance under review and Dalston's representative has promised to keep RFG informed of developments. We are planning a systematic programme of RoW upkeep during 2006, starting as soon as the shiny new tools purchased with our grant money have been delivered. Will anyone who fancies volunteering for a Saturday morning's machete wielding (at their own risk), please get in touch with me at Roewath Lodge, or by calling 07749 123168.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS Members are reminded that the Group is now in its second year, so those who joined in the first flush are hereby invited to renew their subscriptions at the same price as 2005. All others wishing to renew should do so on the anniversary of their joining. Annual subscriptions are unchanged at £3.00 for an Associate member, £5.00 for a Full member. If you can't remember when your anniversary date is, don't worry, the Treasurer will be sending you a gentle E-reminder before your year is up. Founder-members should send their payments (payable to *Redspearlands Footpath Group*) to Alan Jackson, 'Haythwaite', Haythwaite Lane, Raughton Head, Dalston, Carlisle CA5 7DE.

WALK 4 FUN This very active walking group from Skelton and Lamonby has sent us their Jan-Apr programme with an invitation for RFG members to join in the fun. They are very good company and offer a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some mid-week walking over alternative terrain.

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