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Hard copy version: [Liz Craig](#), [Elizabeth Luck](#)

REDSPEARLANDS FOOTPATH GROUP

Newsletter #3 - March 2006

OUR NEW CHAIRMAN I am delighted (and relieved) to confirm that Mrs E M (Liz) Craig, an early member of RFG, has accepted our invitation to take over as Chairman of the Executive Committee as from the AGM later this month (see below). Quite a number of you already know Liz, who has been an active rider for many years and a long-term champion for bridleway rights. Apparently, her mother used to say, "Anyone who follows Liz ends up in a bog." Having myself returned home torn and bleeding from a survey outing with her, ostensibly to survey a BW, but which became like a trip up the Amazon when she started to search out a 'Lost Way', I can confirm that mum was dead right; the rest of you have been warned!

OUR RETIRING CHAIRMAN Delighted as we are at the arrival of Liz Craig, without the support and enthusiasm of Judith Mandale when the Group was no more than a gleam in the eye, RFG would never have got going. She planned and led most of last year's six monthly walks, attended all the evening meetings, was an effective ambassador in the formation of our relationship with Ivegill Footpath Group, and participated in the Walking the Way to Health (WWH) initiative, training as a Health Walk leader. We're extremely sorry to lose her from the Exec. but hope she'll remain an active member and enjoy many future outings with us and IFG.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Notice is hereby given of the Group's first annual general meeting, to be held at Haythwaite, Haythwaite Lane, Raughton Head (NY305455), by kind invitation of Pat and Alan Jackson, on Tuesday, 28 March 2006 at 7:30pm. Will those attending the AGM please let the hosts know no later than one week prior to the meeting. Tel: 016974 76345, Email: alanjackson50@btopenworld.com Agenda, Annual Accounts and Chairman's, Secretary's and Treasurer's reports available at the meeting.

TOM SMITH'S LEAP This landmark appears on the Explorer Series OS map at NY388474 at the NW edge of the Parish where the boundary follows Chalk Beck. In a moment of idle curiosity I got to wondering who Tom Smith was and what made him leap. Escaping from an angry husband or father?...a swarm of bees?...was he an over-enthusiastic huntsman carried away with the chase? If anyone can shed light on this mystery, please let me have details for publication.

ADOPT-A-WAY With Easter just around the corner, now is as good a time as any to float our 'Adopt-A-Way' idea. As the arrival of spring tempts us out of doors, what should have been a pleasant footpath walk often turns out to be quite the opposite. In an attempt to make sure Dalston's Rights of Way are fit for purpose, we are making 2006 the year we get to grips with upkeep and maintenance. Thanks to the grants from Dalston Parish Council, Dalston and Cummersdale Neighbourhood Forum and, lately, Awards for All, we have the money to invest in tools and equipment and, we hope, plenty of volunteers to use 'em. All

that's needed now is a network of footpath or bridleway users willing to 'adopt a way' and to report to us any discoveries such as obstructions or damage, undergrowth incursion, etc, etc. The adopted way doesn't have to be on your doorstep, just so long as it's one that you can conveniently walk or ride at least once a month, although weekly would be better. On this occasion we are asking adopters to volunteer their services by contacting either Liz Auld (Clerk to Dalston Parish Council) or their local Parish Councillor. They will then pass the contact info on to our co-ordinator. (The reason for the Parish Council's involvement will be explained next month).

SUGGEST A WALK Having given Dalston's paths a good going over last year, this year we thought it would be an idea to venture further afield and put the occasional boot into a neighbouring parish. Those with a favourite walk that would be suitable for one of our monthly outings are invited to make them known. You don't have to be the leader, just so long as you are willing to brief the would-be leader beforehand. A walk I have come across, but have yet to try out, is FP258035 t'other side of Chalk Beck in Westward Parish. From the Dalston side, as seen from the heights above the beck, (and from where Tom Smith leapt to his doom), the footpath below looks used and in fair condition. If the beck isn't too swollen it will be possible to cross by the ford, returning by way of BW114009, thence by road to Chalkfoot via Cumdivock.

RoW WEBSITE For online details of Cumbria's Rights of Way based on the 1976 Definitive Map (with later modifications) visit- <http://81.171.180.50/row/> It's not terribly good, but better than nothing if you suspect a change has occurred and you want to check up on it.

Alan Lyne
Secretary

Ps. I have spare copies available of the latest issue of 'Focus', the Countryside Agency's quarterly publication. If anyone would like a copy, let me know and I'll send it. AL

1/3/06