

REDSPEARLANDS FOOTPATH GROUP

Annual Report for the Year 2010

Membership

Membership numbers at the end of the year remained more or less level. We had the sad news of Liz Clay's passing during Christmas week. Her joyful company will be greatly missed on the monthly walks. Kathleen Harrington also has had to forego the pleasure of our company owing to taking up Saturday work. However, to balance the books, we were pleased to welcome Paul and Janet Gilchrist (Yes, another one!) who joined after giving one of our longer circular walks a try.

Programme

The usual range of walks over parish paths were undertaken during the year, plus our regular joint walk with the Ivegill Footpath Group which, disappointingly, no-one from RFG was able to attend. That particular walk apart, as usual participating numbers varied from few to many, but all who took part enjoyed the outings in spite of the weather, which apart from June was not particularly good.

Meetings of the Executive Committee

Due to the Hon. Secretary's ill health and stays in hospital, no meetings of the Executive were held during the year. However the Secretary/Acting Chairman and Treasurer maintained frequent e-mail contact. The Acting Chairman had several routine contact meetings with the County's countryside ranger, the Parish Paths Initiative administrator, and the Chairman and the Clerk of Dalston Parish Council.

Constitution

No changes were made to the Group's Constitution during the year.

Projects

A 'Dalston Walks' mapping project was commenced during the year in partnership with the Walk for Life scheme. Route maps of the majority of RFG's monthly walks will be available for downloading and printing from the group's website by early Spring 2011. Additional maps featuring Miles Without Stiles, the Redspear Circuit, and a selection of 'Mile' routes (deadend paths offering at least a measured mile there and back.

Parish Paths Initiative

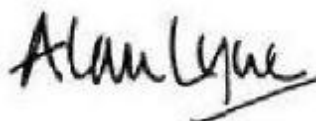
The Group consulted with Dalston Parish Council (Parish Clerk); Geoff Fewkes, Countryside Ranger, and the landowner of Fps114.046 and 049, regarding replacing stiles with gates. Consequently these paths, together with the Redspear Circuit, have added considerably to Dalston's 'Miles without Stiles' portfolio.

Problem Paths

Continued problems with obstructions to PROW are being experienced, both long-running. The one at Roewath Bridge is the more serious since, as the path is obstructed, the City will not carry out access improvements sanctioned by the County's Development and Control Committee. BW 114.036 also has had signs erected by the property owner to discourage users. As this is an offence under the Access to the Countryside Act, the Secretary has written to Cllr. Allison asking him to ascertain what action the City proposes to take

Thanks

Grateful thanks to everyone who supported us in whichever way during the year. To the surveyors, tea providers, walk supporters and advice-givers, many thanks. Particular thanks to **Alan Jackson** for carrying on being our Treasurer and to **Bill Hogg** for auditing the accounts. Thanks also to **Dalston Parish Council** and **Dalston and Cummersdale Neighbourhood Forum** for their grant aid. Thanks also to **Ronnie Auld** for hosting the RFG website and to **Peter Wrigley** for his regular updating of it.



Hon. Secretary and Acting Chairman

Dalston, 20 March 2011