

Redspearlands Speech

Good evening, everyone and thank you all for this opportunity to speak to you. Oddly enough there have been several occasions in the past, such as the infamous Lime kilns walk where I have been near to contacting you but today this is something really important.

First the closed footpaths. The AGM had a great turnout with members of various local groups including other footpath groups, environmentalists, the drama group and the church. The two footpaths that are in question still remain closed but I see one is not in Dalston parish.

The one that is still closed is from Stockdale wath to Thrangholm Bridge and this shows no signs of opening. I would be grateful to you if you have any details.

We must remember that often these closed paths in this area are sections of much longer footpaths thus jeopardising the fitness and wellness of the community. To start a walk and then to be back with undue planning can be very frustrating, not to say dangerous. So, we would hope that we have the support of the Dalston PC in our approach to Cumberland to find out why this turned closed, especially as we had received an £8,000 grant in order to save this footpath a few years prior to its closure.

Secondly, as accounts of clubs and organisations were suspended by certain banks a couple of years ago, we looked for how to spend our remaining £500. There were many suggestions at the 2025 AGM but the re-printing of the footpath guide "Lets Walk in Dalston" got the OK.

At the AGM our secretary was asked to produce the document which I am going to pass on to you now. It sets out what the Group stands for and refers to the appeal for a grant from the DPC.

We should like to put in an application but don't exactly know when to do that. Obviously, we shall have to research the walks to check validity and I have got a team ready for this.

What I would like to do is give these out now. It explains what the group is all about and sets out its plan for funding the Guide, partially with the help of you. I would like you to read through and comments in the gaps provided and if I can call in again at an autumn meeting, I shall have a clearer picture and your responses or suggestions will be very valuable. You don't have to wait until then as you can email me your thoughts via Sue.

Thank you very much for listening and are there any questions.

David J Wood

14th July 2026