

DFBS NEWS

September 2023

Hello to all our members.

We hope you have enjoyed the Summer

Walking season, and are now cooled down and ready for the first half of the Winter Warmers walks...

Our AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 1 November 2023 at the Civic Hall, Dronfield, 7pm for 7.30pm start. Please treat this as the official notification for members and the chance to put forward any items of business that you would like to be discussed. Any items need to be with Peter Carr, our Secretary and can be channelled through admin@dronfieldfootpaths.org.uk or peterwcarr@hotmail.com if there is any difficulty with admin@dronfieldfootpaths.org.uk.

The AGM is an important function of the Society and forms part of our Constitution. It needs to deal with the following matters:-

- a) To receive and, if approved, to adopt a Statement of the Society's Accounts to the end of the preceding financial year ending 30th September.
- b) To elect the officers and other members of the Committee.
- c) To appoint a Financial Examiner.
- d) To make a decision upon any resolution proposed by a member provided 28 days' notice has been given in writing to the Secretary.
- e) Report on the past year's activities carried out by the Society.
- f) To deal with any special matter which the Committee desire to bring before the members and to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Committee.

So, there we have it, such is the reason for you to attend. Another might be an excellent talk after the business that Graham Gill has organised that is interesting about birds, boots, a bike and buses. It's entitled a 'Free Bird Talk' due to the free transport arrangements! There's tea/coffee and biscuits on offer that might also tempt you. If you have something of interest to pass on to our members, please let us know. You might have reported or have had some difficulty with access, along rights of way or have some advice to encourage new walk leaders. We're all keen to learn and improve on what we do so let us know. Many pay their subs around the AGM and the best

way for the Society is through Bank Credit or Standing Order as this makes life easier for Joe Kelsall, our Treasurer and Membership Officer. Our details are:

Name of Account:-.....Dronfield Footpaths and Bridleways Society

Sort Code.....60-40-09

Account No.....16904249

Reference....."your name"

Amount.....£5 (£10couple)

ACTIVITIES

Since the Spring Newsletter the Grant monies we mentioned have been used to purchase battery operated tools. These have helped keep encroaching vegetation at bay, amongst other paths, a section of the Dronfield Barn Rotary Walk accessed from Barnes Lane, something we call our Barnes Lane Cutback. Please think about joining us on future ventures. We would like a pool of members we can call on, sometimes only 2 to 4 of us to lighten the load on the regulars for an hour or so to clear some vegetation. Joe is happy to co-ordinate this so if you can speak to Joe that would help.

The North Chesterfield Way Leaflet has been out of print for a while, but the new version which we have been working on has now been printed and is with us. It will be distributed to members attending walks initially. Copies can be collected from Dronfield Library, Tipton Lock, Chesterfield VIC in Rykneld Square (and Dronfield Hall Barn). Copies will also be available at the AGM.

We are expecting a site visit from the Grants section at Derbyshire County Council in late October or early November as part of the monitoring and evaluation process so if you have any thoughts on the impact the grant monies have had to improving life in general for the community, please let us know.

CPR and Defib training

We've nothing further to report as we are awaiting an update from the organisers. Anyone interested should let Peter Carr know to boost the numbers.

Chesterfield Area Walking Festival 2024

This is planned to go ahead for the 11 – 19 May next year and the organisers are asking if we can let them know if we can lead walks again next year, what walks we would like to do and how many. The organisers need the details before the end of September (ideally). They have also asked that we do our best to encourage others to consider leading a walk. The organisers can offer support and training if necessary. The organisers are looking for a variety of walks, daytime and evening, short and longer so there's a chance here to expand your repertoire of walks to a wider and appreciative audience from further afield.

Peter Carr, Graham Gill and Joe Kelsall have all had experience of leading walks in the festival so can help you with this if you would like to get involved.

Footpath maintenance: As part of our commitment to keeping footpaths passable we are looking to set up a group of a dozen or so volunteers to assist in cutting back overgrown sections of paths as we become aware of them. Not everyone will be called upon each time but it will help to ensure enough people are available at any given point. Let Joe Kelsall or any committee member know if you are willing to be included in emails calling for help when needed.

Christmas Tree Festival at the Parish Church

24th November 2023 - 3rd December 2023

Following on from the success last year, we are planning another Christmas Tree Festival in Dronfield Parish Church from Friday 24th November, when the Civic Centre lights will be switched on, until Sunday the 3rd December. We hope to be one of the up to 100 Christmas trees, all provided and decorated by local groups, clubs, schools, shops, businesses and societies, showcasing all the good work they do in Dronfield Town. Angela Land is our organiser for this...let her know if you will help.

And now: : a walks report from David Blackburn about a recent shared walk:

A perfect late summer day for a walk around the heather moors. 15 of us, including friends from Dronfield Footpaths and Bridleways Society and a visitor from Rotherham Metro Group followed a route of under 9 miles around Wimble Holme Hill, the Longshaw estate (Sheepdog trials day, but didn't seem to be a great deal happening as we past by). We also had a short reflection in memory of our

much missed colleague, Glyn Williams who died recently, and who would have loved walking in one of his favourite areas. From Longshaw we went over White and Brown Edges, ending with steep and stony descent back our cars.

Views were amazing -we could see for miles and miles and on our return we were able to identify locations in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire as well as Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

Our route followed paths that the 'King of Ramblers' - Bert Ward - would have taken from his house in nearby Holmesfield. By coincidence our walk was exactly 123 years since the very first advertised walk (in the Sheffield Clarion newspaper) took place on this day in 1900. From that early beginning the grew the successful Clarion Ramblers and GHB Ward played a leading role in campaigning and developing walking into the popular pastime we enjoy today



Lunchtime on the Longshaw estate - most were content to 'log in' for our meal break, but just a few preferred the 'fine dining area'!



In the Winter Walk programme we've included a re-launch of the North Chesterfield Way on Saturday 14th October. We're pleased that the Chesterfield Mayor, Councillor Mike Brady has agreed to welcome us at the start and send us off on our way and that Dronfield's Mayor, Councillor Susan Burkitt says she'll be delighted to greet us in Dronfield. 'So a Civic send off and welcome back'.

The walk on Tuesday 12th September through Haddon Fields and Manners Wood marked the last walk on our summer programme. During this period, we offered thirty-three walks with distances ranging from three to nine miles. Both the morning and Thursday evening walks proved popular and apart from a couple of weather affected walks we averaged between fifteen and twenty people on each walk. We had a great mixture of annual favourites such as the Five Ponds walk and the Dawn Chorus walk, themed walks and linear walks that made use of public transport.

This year a third of our walks took place outside the Dronfield, Unstone and Holmesfield area and we would welcome your views on whether we have struck the right balance between walks on your doorstep and ones a little further afield in the eastern moors and peak district. Please email admin@dronfieldfootpaths.org.uk.

As always, I would like to thank all our walk leaders particularly those who have led walks for the first time. It's now over to the Autumn and early Winter programme which I am sure will be equally well supported. Pete Hubbard

Well, that's about it for this newsletter,,,let's finish with a few silly things...

Did I read that sign right?

Toilet out of order. Please use floor below.

In a Laundromat:

Automatic washing machines: please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.

In a London department store:

Bargain basement upstairs...

In an office:

Would the person who took the step ladder yesterday please bring it back or further steps will be taken.

In an office:

After tea break, staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

Outside a second-hand shop:

We exchange anything - bicycles, washing machines, etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?

Notice in health food shop window:
Closed due to illness...

Spotted in a safari park:
Elephants, please stay in your car.

Seen during a conference:
For anyone who has children and doesn't know it, there is a day care on the 1st floor.

Message on a leaflet:
If you cannot read, this leaflet will tell you how to get lessons.

On a repair shop door:
We can repair anything. (please knock hard on the door - the bell doesn't work.)

Panda mating fails;
Veterinarian takes over

New study of obesity looks for larger test group
Weren't they fat enough?!

I have a pencil that used to be owned by William Shakespeare.
But he chewed it a lot. Now I can't tell if it's 2B or not 2B.

Shoutout to everyone who can still remember their childhood phone number but can't remember the password they created yesterday.

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You are my people.

Thanks to all who have contributed items for this newsletter....but remember when out on our walks...Take nothing but photographs, and leave nothing but footprints.

Cheers all, Richard Smith