

Summer FOOTSTEPS



Dronfield Footpaths & Bridleways Society *Spring/Summer Newsletter 2025*

Summer Walks Programme

We have started to compile our summer walks programme. As in previous years we will aim to put on a Thursday evening walk every week where daylight allows together with one Saturday and one Tuesday daytime walk each month. The evening walks are usually between 3 and 5 miles in length and the daytime walks between 4 and 7 miles. To maximise the number of evening walks we can put on, we will be trialling an earlier start of 6:30 pm at the start and end of the programme. Based on feedback from our membership we will be encouraging walk leaders to submit more shorter walks this summer.

In recent programmes we have included some walks that are a little further afield. These have proved to be popular so we will continue with them, however most of walks will still be in the Dronfield area and easy to get to.

New Walk Leaders

Walk leaders are a huge asset to our group and we are very grateful to them. However, the more leaders we have the more walks we can add to our programme.

If any of you would like to try leading a walk, please email admin@dronfieldfootpaths.org.uk and we will send you the list of dates available. If you are new to leading walks why not pick a walk that you know well so you don't have to worry about navigation. Although the prospect of leading a walk can be daunting, we can help with planning and recceing the walk and can provide support on the day.

Dronfield2gether

Dronfield 2gether holds two events annually, promoting social groups, organisations, charities and clubs that operate in Dronfield, with the aim to make Dronfield a better, happier and healthier town. The last event was on Thursday 10th April and our group had a stall in the Sports Centre between 10am and 2pm. A selection of maps and waymark coasters were available. There were lots of activities on the day hosted at other venues in Dronfield town centre.

Chesterfield Walking Festival

This year's walking festival will run from Saturday 10th May to Sunday 18th May. Full details of the walks are not yet available, but we expect there will be the usual variety of walks ranging from gentle strolls through parkland to long walks across rugged terrain.

AGM

An early note for your diary! The AGM has been booked for the Dronfield Civic Hall at 7-00pm on Tuesday the 4th November 2025. (No Wednesday dates available)

Committee members 2025

An update as to whom is on the committee with Steve and Ros resigning and Martin Hanrahan agreeing to join. Also mention if anyone is interested in joining please speak to a current member or email admin

Walking Poles

We continue to welcome new members to our group and it would be a great help to supply a walking pole for them to use or trial! To make this possible we would welcome any donation of unused walking poles that any of our membership have tucked away gathering dust! Please email admin and we will arrange collection. To use them the right way, put your hand up through the bottom of the strap and then pull down

and grab the grip of the pole. This technique supports your wrist and heel of the hand and allows you to keep your hand relaxed on the grip.

Adjust the length of the strap so that when you bring your hand down on the strap it lines up with where you want it to rest on the grip. Proper strap adjustment allows you to let go of the pole to take a picture, grab a snack or adjust your backpack and then easily grab the pole again in the right place. This also makes it easier to retain the poles when you're wearing gloves, which can make a tight grip more difficult.

AGM SUMMARY 2024 Our AGM took place on 30 October 2024 with 47 members attending, including 11 of your committee members. Minutes of the 2023 AGM were approved. We reported on the past years activities which included: 68 walks in the winter and summer programmes with none cancelled despite the best efforts of storms Barbet and Ciaran. The walks included a variety of themes with an early breakfast at the Dawn Chorus and a pie and pea supper at the end of summer followed by a quiz from John. An average of 15 attending with some fresh faces too. A refresh of the Drone Valley Way was included to coincide with the purchase of new way markers and an invitation to conclude at Chesterfield Town Hall by the Mayor for light refreshments. New walk leaders used their imaginative talents to create new walks adding a refreshing dimension. The Barnes Lane cutback of vegetation along the Dronfield Barn Rotary Walk was hampered by bad weather although some cutting back at Unstone was successful in advance of a walk in the programme. Two community events were supported by DFBS, one at the Civic Centre and one at the Gosforth Valley event in September. Again, Angela took a lead at representing us at the Parish Church Christmas Tree display by supplying and decorating a Christmas Tree in her colourful way. Joe K gave us an update on finances and membership. The bank balance stood at £645.05 with £62.21 in petty cash. The primary expenditure continues to be AGM, insurance and website costs. Additional to this was the purchase of way markers, admin materials and some small donations. Membership stood at 130 with subs and donations from that at £675.00 and Joe was confident that the Society was financially sound with there being no need to consider increasing annual subs which are £5. The accounts were approved. Except for Ros and Steve Sadler who had indicated their intention of standing down, the committee were re-elected. Thus, your committee comprises Peter Carr, Joe Kelsall, Pete Hubbard, Graham Gill, Richard and Jane Smith, Jean Thorpe, Adrian Slome, Richard Pearson and Vanessa Kavanagh. David Blackburn volunteered as the Society's representative warden for our section of the Dronfield Barn Rotary Walk which stretches from Mickley Lane to Bowshaw. After the business and tea and cakes by Vanessa, we were treated to an excellent illustrated talk from Rod Auton from the Chesterfield Canal Trust. We hope to see you at the 2025 AGM on 4 November, 7pm for 7.30pm start. More News: At a recent Committee meeting we were pleased to be joined by Martin Hanrahan who agreed to join the committee. We look forward to Martin's input. If anyone else would like to join and represent views and ideas from the members and take the Society forward, please let us know. At the same committee meeting we agreed the Society's Privacy Policy. If you would like to view a copy of the policy, please email admin@dronfieldfootpaths.org.uk. We are currently working on reviewing and updating the Society's Health and Safety Policy. If you have any experience or expertise in this area, then please share it with the committee. **Peter Carr**

Gosforth Valley Community Festival

Following on from last year's successful festival, St Andrew's Church and The Jolly Farmer are organising an event to be held on Saturday 6th September 2025. We will be having a stall so why not pop along and say hello.

The Church building will accommodate more stalls inside this year along with outside stalls on the green (in front of the shops) and the courtyard in front of The Snug. There will be no charge, but your participation on the event's fund raising stalls would be much appreciated!

And that's about it!

This, along with the accompanying Walks timetable, has brought you up-to-date...Enjoy the walks, and if you have not yet been a walk leader, please consider being one next season. Best wishes to you all.....

