

# **Report to Chorley Ramblers AGM - 2011**

## **Membership Report , Janet Blakeman**

October 2007	–	288 members
October 2008	–	303 members
October 2009	–	308 members
October 2010	–	315 members
September 2011	–	294 members

Nationally, there has been a decline in membership due to the recession. We have been successful in keeping our membership relatively steady at around the above number. In Mid-Lancashire Area we have only had a decline of 49 members since October 2010.

On 19th. November 2010, Barbara Williams and I went to a meeting in Liverpool where we met representatives from other local groups, RA Chair - Rodney Whittaker and RA Chief Executive -Tom Franklin. We were there to applaud the reasons for Chorley's successful membership and to discuss new ways to promote the Ramblers.

After five enjoyable years I have retired from the Chorley Ramblers' Committee as we are moving further north. I would like to thank everyone for the happy times spent rambling with the group.

## **Publicity Report , Joan Taylor**

Chorley Ramblers had a stand in the foyer of Chorley Library on Tuesday, 12 April – (market day) with a team of ramblers available to talk to members of the public about the work of the Ramblers and our programme of walks. The publicity event was deemed to have been a great success as many visitors expressed interest in the varied literature and the programme of walks we offered. Many expressed an intention to join the Ramblers now or to join after their impending retirement. It is intended that a similar event will be planned in the future.

I have completed the update to our Chorley Ramblers' Web Page and it has been forwarded , including photographs, to Bill. By the time of the AGM, we hope that the page will be up and running on the internet. Check out our website: **[www.chorleyramblers.co.uk](http://www.chorleyramblers.co.uk)**

We continue to work with Chorley Borough Parish Clerks to ensure laminated Walk Programmes are displayed on Parish and other prominent Notice Boards.

## **Planning Applications Report , Pat Beresford**

## **We made objections to 2 Planning Applications:**

- 1) 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010: Planning Application No: 10/00946/REMAJ Vertex Training and Conference Centre Little Carr Lane Chorley PR7 3JT which impacted on Public Right of Way, Footpath Number 41, Chorley.**

Our objection was that Part of Footpath No 41 was previously diverted for the development of Myles Standish Way. The proposed diversion will follow the estate roads. With this new proposed diversion the route and character will bear no resemblance to the original footpath.

- 2) 26 August 2011: Planning Application 11/00384/FUL Logwood Stables Brinscall Mill Rd Wheelton Chorley PR6 8TD**

Definitive Footpath No 3 follows the access road to the stables for some length (quarter of a mile plus). Definitive Footpath No 19 crosses this road at the entrance to Logwood Stables and runs along the boundary of the stables.

Our objection was that this development will significantly increase the amount of traffic and the size of vehicles eg horseboxes.

## **We made no objection to the following:**

- 1) July 2011: Planning Application 11/00484/COU: Heath Paddock Hut Lane, Heath Charnock which proposed the siting of static caravans**

We did not object as the site is tidy and screened from the road. It should have no impact on the footpath.

## **Programme Secretary's Report, Pat Hough**

During the year September 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 to Aug 31<sup>st</sup> 2011 25 leaders, including four guest leaders from other groups, led 125 walks.

That is 2 fewer leaders than last year and 6 fewer than in 2008 -2009

We had 7 fewer walks this year than last which is mostly explained by the extra 4 walks we had for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations last year.

The **summer evening walks** have been popular again this year. On the last evening walk this year, on July 12th, members suggested that we extend the programme to the end of July. If leaders are willing to do the extra walks we will extend evening walks in 2012.

Of the 125 walks, 9 were graded strenuous, 43 moderate, 72 leisurely and 1 easy

There were 62 local, 12 coach rambles, 14 in The Lakes, 13 in the Bowland and Ribble Valley areas, 3 in Yorkshire and the rest in Merseyside, Cheshire and other parts of Lancashire.

As always, I would like to thank our leaders for all their work in planning, reccying and leading our walks.

...Without them there would be no programme.

## **Closures and Diversions Report, Sue Lomax**

It has been another very quiet year for closures and diversions. I think perhaps cut backs are beginning to make their presence felt.

### **(A) The following long standing issues are yet to be resolved:-**

- 1) Matters waiting to be referred to the Secretary of State

**Footpath 8 Ulnes Walton.** (The eroded section of the River Lostock).  
I reported last year that a decision re the future of this footpath would be taken before the end of 2010. Unfortunately we are no further forward. I received a letter in August this year from LCC which advised that the County Council's Regulatory Committee determined not to proceed with the orders as made and therefore not refer the matter to the Secretary of State. They say "An alternative approach is required which will be drawn up by officers in due course once further mapping information has been considered."

#### **Footpath 27 Heapey Bridleway 6 Clayton-le-Woods**

- 2) Temporary diversions still in place whilst building works are ongoing affecting

#### **FP6 Adlington (Fairview Farm) FPs4 and 19 Chorley (Rivington View).**

- 3) Temporary diversions because of sand quarries affecting

#### **FP27 Euxton and FPs 6,7 & 8 Cuerden.**

### **(B) New issues for 2010 – 2011**

In the current year there has only been 1 new order made which is in respect of **FP41 Chorley** which is on the site of the Vortex site on Carr lane. The footpath will eventually run mainly along the new estate footpaths.

There has also been 1 proposal. This is to divert part of **Footpath 9 Anderton** in the area of Brown House Farm. We do not object to this part of the diversion but concerns have been raised about the section of path which currently runs through the garden of Millstone Cottage. Three officers from LCC have had a meeting at the site and are hoping that it will be possible for a joint revised proposal to be made by the owners of Millstone Cottage and Brown House Farm. This would mean that the path avoided the garden altogether. As yet there is no further news.

### **Footpath Secretaries Reports, Kath Allman and Marian Owen**

During the 2010-11 period 185 obstructions have been reported to LCC. LCC have cleared 60.

The split of issues reported is as follows:

<b>Type of Obstruction</b>	<b>Issues Reported by Chorley RA</b>				<b>LCC Issues Cleared</b>			
	2007 -2008	2008 -2009	2009 -2010	2010 -2011	2007 - 2008	2008 -2009	2009 -2010	2010 -2011
<b>Signpost</b>	22	27	24	35	18	16	31	12
<b>Waymarkers</b>	35	37	16	42	19	25	26	18
<b>Path in poor, wet, or dangerous condition</b>	26	15	6	35	9	16	1	1
<b>Stile/Gate/Bridge/Walkway</b>	32	16	19	37	21	15	17	14
<b>Overgrown</b>	16	14	13	15	10	8	23	8
<b>Obstruction</b>	24	20	14	14	7	6	15	5
<b>Not on definitive line / diversion</b>				5				1
<b>Other</b>	1	6	3	2	1	2	2	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	156	135	95	185	85	88	115	60

90% of the footpaths in the Borough were checked at least once in the year.

Our application for a Modification Order for Whittle-le-Woods 35 to add the claimed footpath to the Definitive Map is progressing well. The Lancashire County Council Regulatory Committee will consider the Proposed Schedule on 2 November. The next stage would be for the notices to be posted on site. Thanks to every-one involve, and particularly Peter Eccles, in producing evidence of use of this path.

We have identified other sections of footpath which were omitted from the Definitive Map as a result of drafting errors in the 1960s: Whittle-le-Woods 32, Heapey 31, Chorley 61, 21, 22. There will be others.

We intend to hold a Footpath Checkers meeting this year to discuss a range of issues including: reporting footpath issues, getting more involved with footpath improvement, and identifying sections of footpath omitted from the Definitive map.

Many thanks for all the hard work that the Footpath Checkers undertake to help ensure that our paths are clear of obstruction and well signed.

We have vacancies for Footpath Checkers in 2 parishes.