



Chorley Ramblers Out and About

Committee Shake Up at Chorley Ramblers

- **Sue Lomax** advised the committee several months ago that she intended to resign from her post of **Closures and Diversions Officer** with effect from the November 2011 AGM but we were surprised at the August committee meeting to be advised by **Janet Blakeman, Membership Secretary**, and **Barbara Williams, Secretary** that they both intended to resign as well. (Please see page 2 for our tributes and thanks to Barbara, Janet and Sue). **Jack Pilkington** advised the Committee that he intended to resign from his role as **Footpath Checker for Heapey**. Jack is loathe to give up this role but is suffering from considerable back pain. Thank you Jack for your many years of dedicated footpath work in Heapey and across Chorley Borough.
- This means we have a number of vacancies on the committee. With so many committee members leaving at once, it also provides an opportunity for re-jigging roles, if indeed it makes sense to do so. Members with an interest in being a member of the committee in any capacity should have a chat with Brian Allman to discuss how they might become involved.
- Our current vacant posts on the Committee are: **Secretary, Closures and Diversions Officer, Membership Secretary**
- Our current vacant **Footpath Checker** roles are for the following parishes: **Charnock Richard, Heapey, Wheelton**



Beware!! Tiger on the loose at Longton Brickcroft on our August Scramblers walk (Photo taken by Barbara Williams)

Membership News From Janet Blakeman

Please extend a warm Chorley welcome to the following new members:

Mr. and Mrs.R.D.Shooter who have joined us from Burnley and Pendle group, Mr.I.Roberts and Ms.J.Hamer, (Mrs.Cooke, Mr.Bishop and Mr. Gillespie who have all rejoined us), Miss.Joanne Gilmon, Mr.Imtiaz Chovory, Mr. Kevin Seager, Mr.K. and Mrs.A.Francis, Mrs.Carol and Mr. John Warner, Miss. Judith Fleming, Ms.C.Ash, Mr.J. and Mrs.M.McGuigan, Mrs. Sue Bryan, Mr. Jason Adams and Miss. Samantha Taylor.

Our present membership stands at: **295**.

Our website address is:
www.chorleyramblers.co.uk

Deadlines

Walk leaders are invited to contact Pat Hough as soon as they can to bag their places on the next **Walks Programme** which will run from **1 March to 30 June 2012**. The **deadline** for submitting walk details is:

10 November 2011.

Articles and photographs for the **January 2012** edition of **Out and About** to Marian Owen by: **1 December**.

Date of Committee Meeting

The next Chorley RA committee meeting will take place on: **Tuesday 4 October**. Advise Barbara Williams or another member of the committee of topics you would like to have discussed

Annual General Meeting

Chorley Ramblers Annual General Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 8 November** at St Gregory's Parish Centre, Ash Grove, Chorley.

Silverdale gains at Chorley's Expense

After almost five years as Membership Secretary, several years as walks leader, and many years as Chorley Group walker/member, **Janet Blakeman** is moving to Silverdale. Janet also represented the Ramblers on the Yarrow Valley Country Park committee. Janet took her role of Membership Secretary very seriously and would join our full range of walks to walk and talk with new and long standing members to check that they were o.k. and that the Chorley Ramblers offering of walks was to their taste. Janet has a flair for publicity and would get involved with all sorts of activities. Two excellent displays have been mounted in the library over the last few years, and who will forget the near "Mary Pippins" event at the R.A.s 75th Anniversary celebrations when Janet had to hang onto many helium balloons, (some of which I understand escaped).

Over the years Janet has been a very keen and influential member of our committee and exceedingly prompt in carrying out tasks that she agreed to do. For nearly two years she has been Footpath Checker for Charnock Richard and latterly also for Wheelton, again fulfilled with speed and accuracy.

As Membership Secretary she hosted the four-monthly stuffing of envelopes for circulation to members, and oversaw the distribution of them, whilst we helpers were entertained by the cat. Her last meeting was in August. We wish Janet, David and Matthew a happy and healthy future. Dare she leave her address; put the kettle on for 20 passing ramblers!!

Barbara Williams Resigns Secretary Role

Barbara Williams has been the Secretary to Chorley Ramblers for 13 years so that must mean she has organised 78 Committee Meetings and 13 Annual General Meetings, wow! She has also represented the group on a range of regional interest group meetings. In the early years Barbara introduced our Newsletter, Out and About and edited the newsletter until 2004.

Thank you very much Barbara.

Barbara has stretched us with her long distance walks and been at the very heart of the Scramblers Programme. Barbara's warm and enthusiastic approach to life has made many a rambler feel welcome and relaxed in the company of Chorley Ramblers and we can be grateful that although Barbara is resigning from the role of Secretary she will continue to be a Chorley Rambler and is even prepared to continue as an Executive Officer of the Committee. We hope that John will soon be feeling much stronger and that soon they will both be out and about walking and talking.

Sue Lomax Resigns Diversions and Closures Officer Role

Sue Lomax has been a member of the Committee for 3 years. Her thoughtful and strategic approach to Diversions and Closures has resulted in this sometimes difficult brief being advantageously managed and well communicated to Chorley Ramblers.

Sue has also instigated some and been involved in many of our new initiatives, for example: Chorley Ramblers Publicity Leaflet, 75th Anniversary Baton Walk, and a Night Hike to name just a few.

Thank you very much Sue.

Sue will still be a member of Chorley Ramblers and we hope she'll continue to help us in the development of new initiatives

Whittle-le-Woods Rights of Way Walk helps nudge Modification Order for Footpath 35

On Sunday 7 August Peter Eccles led us along some of Whittle-le-Woods attractive and popular footpaths to find out more about Chorley Ramblers work in dealing with all sorts of Footpath obstructions and Rights of Way issues. We looked at the section of Footpath 35 which is under threat of falling into disrepair or even closure because of a clerical error in the 1960s. When the First Review of the Definitive Map was drawn up at the same time as the M61 was being routed through Whittle-le-Woods this path and other existing Rights of Way were not transferred to the Definitive Map (First Review). No-one seems to have noticed this at that time but 50 years later it matters because LCC is refusing to maintain a path which isn't on the Definitive Map and the right to walk over such a path could be challenged.

Marian Owen invited Jo Turton, Lancashire County Council's Director for the Environment to join the walk. She declined but agreed to ask David Goode, LCC's Public Rights of Way (PROW) Manger to contact Marian to set up a meeting to discuss the issues relating to the mapping of Rights of Way in the area and developing the relationship between the Ramblers and LCC's PROW team.

Our Application for a Modification Order for Whittle-le-Woods 35 (submitted on 25 May 2010) is also moving forwards as a report was submitted to the Regulatory Committee on 13 July 2011 and the Committee approved the making of an order to add the claimed footpath to the Definitive Map. The next stage is for the order to be made and notices posted on site.

Thanks to every-one involved in producing evidence of use of this path and particularly to Peter Eccles for forensically studying the old maps and the lay of the land and making sense of it all.

Whittle-le-Woods 35 is only one of a number of paths for which we will be applying for a Modification Order; see the article on Heapey Footpath 31 on page 3.

Two sections Footpath Heapey 31 to be claimed for inclusion on the Definitive Map

Heapey 31 goes from the Parish Boundary at SD 59851 20080 through Heys Farm via Tithe Barn Lane to Chapel Lane at SD 60608

However it appears that two sections of Footpath 31, to the west and east of Heys Farm, were omitted from the Definitive Map, this is from SD 59975 20072 to SD 60320 19989.

Jack Pilkington has discussed this path with LCC staff and they recommend that Chorley Ramblers apply for a Modification Order in respect of the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way.

Staff at LCC has commented that the most likely reason for the omission was that there was a mapping error when routes were copied from one map to another when the current Definitive Map was being prepared.

We need to give evidence of use of this path and to indicate the line of the path that we believe to be correct.

If you have used this Footpath over a number of years we would be grateful if you would complete a form, Public Rights of Way, Evidence of Use on Foot. Please contact Marian Owen on: 01257265857 or email marianowen123@aol.com who will forward a paper copy of the form and map with the line of the path to you at your home address. Forms will also be available at Chorley Ramblers AGM.

If you want an in depth discussion regarding the path, please contact Jack Pilkington.

The Cottage Tea Room at Brinscall

The above has extended its opening hours. It is now open from 10.00am to 4.00pm, Wednesday through to Sunday.

Like to share your local walk?

Please let us have walk directions of one of your favourite local walks. We would love to include a walk for each of Chorley's parishes in Out and About and on our website.

Bob Schmuhl Memorial

Many of you attended Bob's funeral service on 1 February. On 9 July, at Healey Nab Memorial Forest a simple ceremony took place to plant an oak tree and unveil a memorial plaque.

**"Life for Life"
Memorial Forest
BOB (R.C.) SCHMUHL
18.08.1926 - 24.01.2011**



At last, a great day for Ron and Margaret's walk to Pike Lowe and Withnell Fold on 31 July

Photo by Ron Smith

Third Time Lucky

The Pike Lowe and Withnell Fold walk from Whins Lane layby was first listed in December 2009. On the day, heavy snowfall made the roads almost impassable. The two leaders and one lady from Preston managed to reach Whins Lane, so the walk went ahead.

Not to be deterred, we put the same walk on the programme for December 2010, feeling confident that snowfall wouldn't strike twice, in a manner of speaking. Big mistake! Once again a total whiteout occurred on the morning of the walk. This time, the two leaders, plus Angela and Philip managed to reach the starting point, so the walk went ahead with 100% increase in attendance over the previous year. As on the previous walk, it stopped snowing. Blue sky and sunshine made the world a winter wonderland, so it was very enjoyable in the end.

We still wanted to share the walk with more people, so it was put on the programme again for Sunday 31 July 2011. We were confident that it would not be disrupted by snow at that time of year. What could possibly go wrong?

One week before the walk we did a recce and noticed signs along the A674. The road would be closed on Sunday 31 July! To allow the Ironman Triathlon event to take place, a temporary road closure on the A674 between the Houghton Arms and Moss Lane, Whittle le Woods, would be in place from 0600hrs to 1600hrs that day, **oh no !!!** The starting point could only be reached by traffic along the A674. We contacted Lancs County Council and the Ironman web site to find out more details, but everyone was very vague about exactly what would happen. Several ramblers got in touch to see if the walk was still on. We made encouraging noises and kept our fingers crossed.

On the morning of 31 July I went to the A674 and spoke to the Ironman traffic marshals. They weren't closing the road at all! The cyclists were passing at intervals, slotting in with normal road traffic. We had every admiration for the contestants - a 2.5 mile swim followed by a 112 miles cycle race followed by a 26 mile marathon!

So the day was a success. 19 Ramblers took part on the walk and the weather was kind to us this time. Third time lucky! Phew!

Ron Smith