



# RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION PRESTON GROUP

September 2008

## 2008 AGM

This will be held on Saturday 22nd November 2008 at Grimsargh Village Hall. It will be in our usual format of walk, hot-pot, AGM and speaker.

There will be a circular walk starting at 10:00 am and toilet facilities will be available. The number 1 bus leaves stand 71 in the Preston bus station every 10 mins and stops right outside the Village hall.

Lunch of Hot Pot followed by apple pie and cream from Hotpot Supper Company will be served at 1.30pm, for which there is a charge of **£3.00**, payable on the day. Cups of tea and coffee will also be available. Help with serving will be appreciated.

This will be followed by the AGM when officers of the group will report on the past years work. The election of officers and committee for the coming year will take place, volunteers to serve on the committee are needed. There will be an opportunity for anyone to ask questions and suggestions are always welcome to improve our work.

At 3.00pm approximately Les Green will give a presentation on 'walking in Nepal'.

To help with the numbers for catering will those who intend to be present for lunch please complete the slip in this newsletter, ring Andy Manzie on 01772 736467 or e-mail [info@prestonra.co.uk](mailto:info@prestonra.co.uk) by **13<sup>th</sup> November 2008**.

## Walks Programme

Enclosed is the walks programme from September 2008 to January 2009. We have been struggling to fill all the slots in the programme. We had some slots in the last programme and we have 1 in this one as well unfilled. So talk to Andy Manzie on 01772 736467 if you are willing to help.

## Annual General Meeting Hot Pot Lunch

I Shall require lunch at 1.30pm at the Preston R.A Group AGM on Saturday, 22<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at the Grimargh Village hall. The charge of £3.00 is payable on the day

**Name or Names** [Please print clearly]

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you willing to help out in the kitchen **YES / NO**

Please post to Mr A Manzie, 3 Ruthin Court, Dunbar Road, Ingol, Preston, PR2 3YE. Else telephone on 01772 736467 or e-mail [info@prestonra.co.uk](mailto:info@prestonra.co.uk) with names before 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

Visit the web site for all the latest news at <http://www.prestonra.co.uk>

## **Footpath Matters**

The Group currently has 29 footpath reports lodged with Lancashire County Council and a few more pending. A couple of these reports have come from individual members whilst the remainder have been generated by the Footpath Walking Team. This team walks all the footpaths in our area on an ongoing basis – it's a bit like painting the Forth Bridge, by the time you get to the end the start needs looking at again. However, this activity ensures our footpaths remain in a reasonable condition. Members are currently looking at footpaths in Fulwood, Haighton and Whittingham.

Stiles remain top of the problem list but the good news here is that a British Standard for gaps, gates and stiles has just been published. The standard not only illustrates "good" stile design and specification it also makes the point that the *least restrictive option* should be used. This means that a gap should be the first consideration, with a gate being considered next. A stile should (in future) only appear where there are *explicit reasons* for not choosing a gap or gate.

Walk Your Paths Week is an initiative by Central Office to promote local footpaths and encourage people to walk them. Our Group has formed links with Woodplumpton Parish Council and St. Anne's Church and will be promoting walks in the parish of up to 5 miles on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2008. Parking will be available in the church car park and the meeting room will be open from 9.30 for a 10am start. Refreshments (tea, scones etc) will be available free of charge after the walk in the meeting room where maps of the area and other walking literature will be on display.

The Guild Wheel Cycle project is gathering momentum and details of the proposed route have been published. Your committee has expressed support for the overall project but still has concerns regarding the surfacing of some paths. Preston RA Group is represented on the cycling forum developing the Guild Wheel by our Footpath Secretary and he

## Footpath Matters Cont

would be interested to hear your views on the Wheel, especially the proposal to change of status for some footpaths to shared use cycle/walking routes.

You will probably have seen in the summer edition of Walk Magazine the article on the Ancient Tree Hunt. Walk was informing the rest of the RA what the Preston Group newsletter highlighted in January! Your committee would like to know if you hugged any trees this summer and would be particularly interested to know of any ancient trees in our area (we are aware of 2 yew trees within a few miles of our area but none within it).

Plans are now being made and, a project officer is in post, to create a North West Coastal Trail running from Chester to Carlisle. This will link and enhance the Mersey Way, the Lancashire Coastal Path and the Cumbria Way. One obstacle to its creation is the lack of public access on the north side of the River Ribble estuary. If you would like to support a coastal trail running through our area please lobby your MP regarding coastal access. An outline letter and details of a local issue (Clifton Marsh) is available from RA Central Office.

## Preston Hobby Fair 30/11/08

This will take place at the Gujarat Hindu Society, South Meadow Lane (off Fishergate Hill) from 10 - 4. There is large car park available to the rear of the building. The Preston group will be attending the fair along with a diverse assortment of groups and societies. Including Card making, St Johns, Music, Scrabble, speaking etc.

## Access Land (<http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk>)

Currently there are no changes in the local access restrictions. Visit the above web site or ring the Bowland visitor

## Cotswold Outdoor

This is a shop in Fishergate opposite Waterstones. They are offering Ramblers members a **15%** discount with the production of their membership card and quoting reference number **R2201** and **Mid Lancs Area**

## Walking Events (More on [www.ramblers.org.uk/info/events/diary.html](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/info/events/diary.html))

26 Sept - 6 Oct **Richmond Walking Festival, North Yorkshire**. Explore this Georgian town complete with river, castle, large cobbled market place, surrounded by the hills of Swaledale and miles of dry stone walls. See [www.richmondwalking.com](http://www.richmondwalking.com) for more, or tel 01748 850252.

3 - 5 October: **Moffat Walking Festival**. Weekend walking in the hills surrounding this popular town. Guided walks, walking challenges and evening entertainment. Tel 01683 220227 or go to [www.visitmoffat.co.uk](http://www.visitmoffat.co.uk)

9-12 October **Isle of Man Autumn Walking Festival**  
The programme offers walks for everyone from guided tours of our towns, short leisurely explorations among our woodlands, national glens and riversides to more demanding hill and coastal walks. Tel 01624 644644 or go to [www.isleofmanwalking.com](http://www.isleofmanwalking.com)

11 October: **Wainwright Memorial Lecture**. The speaker will be Derry Brabbs, international photographer who worked with Wainwright on a number of books in the 1980's. Held at RHEGED, Penrith this is guaranteed entertainment. For more information call 01786 860090 or visit [www.wainwright.org.uk](http://www.wainwright.org.uk).

20-30 November: **Kendal Mountain Film Festival** The festival offers a range of films, art, debates and lectures from and for people passionate about the mountains. See [www.mountainfilm.co.uk](http://www.mountainfilm.co.uk). Or Brewery Box office on 01539 725133

22 - 23 November: **Real Ale Ramble**, Llanwrtyd Wells, in conjunction with the Mid Wales Beer Festival. A choice of route lengths from 16km/10 miles to 40km/25 miles and free beer at the checkpoints. For more tel 01591 610666 or see [www.green-events.co.uk](http://www.green-events.co.uk)