

MANX FOOTPATHS Conservation GROUP

Affiliated to The Ramblers



Spring Newsletter April 2023.

I hope everyone is keeping well and that all who took part in our winter walks thoroughly enjoyed them.

Once again thank you all who have lead walks *and helped in any way in the smooth-running of the MFCG.*

Our thanks go to Peter Corkish for compiling our walks schedules; without his efforts in co-ordinating the schedules ready to be uploaded onto the MFCG website we wouldn't have a walks programme! Thanks also to all the walk coordinators for organising leaders to lead walks, and to the leaders for volunteering so willingly! Finally, we must thank Callum Staley and Fiona Vaz for maintaining the website - probably the best on the Island.

The Committee Report presented at the AGM gave a comprehensive update of the Group's activities over recent months so, not wanting to repeat what has already been reported, this Newsletter is fairly short.

At the AGM the Committee was asked if there were any plans for the use of club funds. The Committee has made repeated approaches to DoI and to DEFA for suggestions of projects that we could undertake, but none have resulted in any spend. At present we do not have any plans in place, but we are keen to put the funds to some use, on a project that the MFCG and the wider community could benefit from. To that end we are asking for your suggestions. Please share your ideas, big or small, with Lesley Parkington by emailing her at secretary@manxfootpaths.org, no later than Friday 19th May 2023. We will then collate all suggestions and discuss them at the next Committee meeting.

What is the Committee up to?

We thought it would be prudent to review the Insurance policy the MFCG has in place. With Committee members retiring and new members on board we felt it would be sensible for us all to fully understand the policy. It is, in general terms, the same as the Ramblers Insurance Policy so we do not expect any changes to be required.

We have been reviewing the 'Guidelines for Walk Leaders' and 'Guidelines for Walkers' and have developed a 'Code of Conduct' for Group members. Copies of the updated Guidelines and of the Code of Conduct accompany this Newsletter; the documents will also be available to view on the website.

In the event of an incident occurring on a walk, the Emergency Services like to be given a **what3words** location as it pinpoints a location with outstanding accuracy. To that end we encourage everyone to upload the APP. Further information will be forthcoming regarding w3w, O.S. maps for grid reference etc in the near future.

Please note, the Members section of the MFCG website now has a new password for accessing member-specific information and documents. It is **Walkntalk23**. This is for paid up members use only.

So, what can be found in the Members section of the website? This is where members can see minutes from, for example, the AGM, and Committee Meetings. The Committee meets every two months or so to report on the Group's finances and membership numbers, footpath hazards and closures, progress with ongoing projects and any issues arising. When you have a spare moment why not dip in to the Members page and have a read.

The AGM held at Peel Golf Course was, as always, very much a social occasion and it would be great to see many more members there next year. The food is great!

The Committee look forward to an enjoyable summer season of walking on the island! We hope to see as many of you as possible making the most of our beautiful countryside.

Kind Regards

Alistair.