

**Footloose
Walking Club**

*Walking in
Lakeland since
1999*

Newsletter

March 2023

Welcome to the latest news letter: the last one was published in December after the AGM.

1. The Committee and Chair

At the end of last year Sue Brearley (Events Co-ordinator), Ann Wilson (Website Editor), Jean Savage, and Derwent Donaldson (Chairman) relinquished their roles on the committee. John Davies has taken over as chairman, and Charles Brecknell and Helen House have joined the committee. Ann Wilson has agreed to continue to manage the website.

2. Membership

The Footloose club has been gaining a number of new members at or since the AGM. This is excellent news for the club and the chairman and committee would like to extend a warm welcome to you.

3. Selwyn Collinge

In January 18 Members and Ex Members of Footloose attended the funeral in Barrow on 13th January of our Life Member and founding member, Selwyn Collinge, who sadly died on New Years Day, after a very long period of fighting Diabetes.

Selwyn was a superb walker with an encyclopaedic knowledge of Cumbria and therefore a 'rock' to the club. As ill health set in his walking ability became increasingly restricted which intensely irritated him but he was more than happy to pass on walks to other perhaps less knowledgeable club members. When walking became impossible he would study the Walks Programme in detail and on a Sunday, 'walk' the route in his mind.

Of course Selwyn was more than a walker. He was intensely interested in all things engineering, in particular railways and his favoured method of public transport was by train. He also loved large, fast motor-cycles a love he shared with another, sadly late, club member, Victor Middleton.

All those of us privileged to have known Selwyn will remember that wry smile and dry sense of humour.

It has been very difficult to watch Selwyn gradually decline. He managed to make the club AGM two years ago but the last many of us saw of him was at his 80th Birthday in May 2022 when even getting him in and out of a car was a major task. We would all prefer to remember him in his prime, a man who completed the Wainwrights before Footloose was even thought of!

RIP Selwyn we all love and admire you.

4. The Walking Programme

Phil Walker has succeeded in filling up the walks programme and has even managed to add some extra easy walks on Sundays where hard walks are planned. This is a new innovation being driven by Phil to provide more balance to the walks programme and has only been possible due to the positive response from members in coming forward with walks. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to lead walks.

A note has been issued reminding everyone to ensure that if any new people who are not members come on any of the clubs walk they must fill in a disclaimer form before the walk starts. I must stress the importance of this as there have been a number of instances where this has been missed.

It should be noted that the phone number of each walks leader is provided on the walks programme, including the one on the website. It is critical that we have a quick and easy process for new and existing members to contact the walks leader to answer questions on their walk on the programme.

Unless a walks leader states otherwise, the default is for the phone number in the membership list to be included in the walks programme. Where someone does not want their landline number included, the recommended alternative is their mobile number as this gives a little more privacy but the walk leader must notify Phil Walker when providing the walk details. As a last resort the footloose e-mail address can be included instead as the men of contact but it is likely to be too slow and cumbersome.

5. February Social

The February social and Planning Meeting at the Gilpin Bridge was very well attended and seemed to be enjoyed by all. The pub staff were very helpful with the organisation despite the numbers of attendees increasing to double the number I initially mentioned to them. There were a few mixups with people getting the wrong dish but everyone was very accommodating and laughed it off. However, we never did find out what happened to Phil's missing pie!

6. Radio Broadcast

On Thursday 12 January the chairman was interviewed on Cumbria Radio regarding Footloose. The angle being put over by the programme was that people may have made New Year resolutions to get fit and joining a walking club such as Footloose would be a good way of getting started. Hopefully this may lead to some new members.

7. Forthcoming events

- Summer Social

Work is progressing on organising a summer social, and all indications are that we will be having a film night at Oxen Park followed by a pie and peas at the Manor pub opposite, probably in June. When this has been finalised a note will be issued to all members.

A separate social/planning meeting will also be organised around the end of May.

- Autumn Holiday

A number of options are being considered for the usual autumn Footloose holiday. The following options are being considered: Isle of Man; Hexham; Llandudno; and Mid East Wales/England border. If anyone has a firm preference for one of these please let the committee know. If there are other places that members feel would make a good venue, all suggestions would be welcome for future years.

- Christmas Social

This year the Christmas social will be held at Bardsea near Ulverston. This has already been booked for the club by Tony Mayo for Sunday 26 November. It is fantastic to get this one booked so early. Further details including menus are expected around September and this is being coordinated by Sue Rigg. We will not be taking reservations from members until we have these details.

- Spain 14th to 24th May 2023

A large group of Footloose members will be going on the Spanish holiday organised by Tony Mayo in May. The trip is being organised in conjunction with John McCartney who lives in Frigiliana, and who we know well from our previous trips to Spain with Walk Andalucia. The event is fully subscribed but Tony is keeping a reserve list. Contact him at anthonyjmayo@aol.com if you want to be added to that list.

- Spanish Pyrenees

A team made up of Footloose members will be attempting to trek from Andorra to the Mediterranean in September. This is the third time this has been organised however COVID stopped the previous attempts. We hope to have better luck this time. Please note that this is not an official Footloose holiday although all participants are members.

- 2024 Holiday

Tentative work has started on a holiday for 2024. At the moment two options are under investigation, Slovakia and Turkey. If anyone has any other suggestions, possibly based on personal experience, these would be welcome.

8. Comments, observations, complaints?

If you have any items of news which you would like to be included in future newsletters please contact the chairman. The contact is winander@aol.com

The previous chairmen have all provided excellent newsletters and have all set the bar very high. I hope that you find this newsletter from the new chairman acceptable.

John Davies