

**Footloose
Walking Club**

*Walking in
Lakeland since
1999*

Newsletter

May 2026

1. Welcome to the latest Footloose news letter.

Welcome to our May Newsletter. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members who have joined since our last newsletter.

2. The Walking Programme

We have a full programme of walks for April to June and we are having a good turnout most weeks. We also have a fairly even selection of hard, moderate, and easy walks, which is healthy. You may have noticed that James has started colour coding the programme to highlight the grade of the walk.

We are now in the process of filling in the programme for July to September and if you fancy leading a walk please contact James House.

When leading a walk it can be very useful if some of the other participants have the route details, especially in bad weather conditions or in the event of an emergency. One great way of doing this is to circulate the GPX file for the route in advance. For those of us who are unaware what a GPX file is, when a walk is plotted on a computer the information is held as a GPX file. This can be e-mailed to others who can then access the route on computers, smart phones, and GPS's. It is suggested that leaders who plot their walks on a computer consider circulating their GPX file around our membership. If you want to do this, please send your GPX file to footloose.cumbria@gmail.com where it will be picked up by either the chair or our website administrator and circulated around our membership. Please note that circulation of your GPX file is only a suggestion and is **not** compulsory.

3. Forthcoming events

- Summer Social

The summer social this year will be 10 pin bowling at Morecambe followed by a bar meal at the iconic Midland Hotel. If the weather is suitable there will be a short walk beforehand.

This event is planned for Wednesday 8 July, with the bowling at 3.00pm and the meal at 6.00pm. This date has been picked as it is outside the school holidays which makes booking easier and more economical. It is expected that we will have two games of bowling at a cost of £9 per person. The Midland Hotel will need us to pre order but no up front payment is required.

Johnny Lovett is organising this event and he will be issuing the full details fairly soon, including details of how to book your place plus the hotel menu.

- Autumn 2026 Holiday

Sue Rigg has just issued the details of the Autumn holiday which you should have received. This holiday will be at Masham in Yorkshire from 11-14 October and we are planning on staying at the Kings Head Hotel. All participants are to make their own booking at the hotel. Sue Firth, who lives in Yorkshire, has been working with Sue Rigg to pull the details of this holiday together. She knows the area quite well and has agreed to help with the walks programme for the holiday. The two Sues seem to make a great team.

Sue Rigg did have some problems making contact with the hotel as all her phone calls to them went to an AI chatbot which was unable to handle her questions and did not give her the option of talking to a real human being. There is no e-mail address on their website so in the end she had to resort to a good old fashioned letter. This had the desired effect.

Sue is asking for everyone to let her know by the end of May if they are going. Unfortunately Sue's contact details were omitted from the note about this holiday, so her e-mail address is sue_rigg@hotmail.com .

- Autumn Hard Holiday (Spanish Trek)

Everything seems to be in place for the September trekking holiday along the NW coast of Spain. It must be pointed out that this is fully booked. The only outstanding things are payment of the balance in July and the booking of several train journeys.

- Christmas Meal and AGM

It is still too early to organise this but we are looking at places that may be able to accommodate us. At the moment we are principally investigating the hotels in Grange-over-Sands.

4. Website and Photographs

Most of our new members find our club via the website. The photographs give them a good impression of what we do. Please keep providing your photographs.

Unfortunately we do have an issue regarding these photographs. The current membership form has a tick box for anyone who does not want photographs of them appearing on the Footloose website. A few people have chosen to take this option, however this means that James House, our website administrator, has to check every photograph submitted for the website, identify everyone in those photos, and check them against the list of people who have ticked that box. There will be some people he will not know by sight. This has the potential to involve a massive amount of work that is totally impractical and unreasonable. If we keep this option on the membership form it will effectively mean that we will have to stop putting any photographs on the website, which is rather undesirable.

In order to avoid these problems, it is proposed that this tick box will be deleted from the membership form for 2027. Instead, members will be given the option of requesting that specific photos on the website that show them clearly are removed. If you are uncomfortable with this change please contact the chair. Although we can discuss this at the AGM, we will need to have the revised membership form in use before then to allow members to renew at the AGM.

5. Planning and Social Meetings

Our Planning and Social meeting in May involved a return at the Manor pub in Oxen Park. This is a great venue and everyone enjoyed themselves. The only downside was that the prices of some of the special dishes were a bit on the high side, however the quality of food was good. As far as we are aware, everyone remembered to pay before leaving, unlike the previous meeting at the Stan Laurel pub! For our next meeting in August, we would prefer to hold it in the Kendal area. Norman French is heroically visiting various hostelrys in Kendal to find somewhere suitable. Hopefully he will be successful, but if not we will probably be going back to the Stan Laurel for our next meeting provided they allow us in. We do seem to struggle to find suitable venues in the Kendal area. We need somewhere that can accommodate around 25 people and allow a committee meeting before hand. If anyone has any suggestions please let the committee know.

We are very grateful to Helen House for organising these meetings,

6. Bank Account

It looks as if our search for a suitable bank account has finally been successful. The account found is called a Community Account and is aimed at not for profit organisations such as village halls, charities, and clubs like ours. This should give us the ability to do banking on line with all its advantages without costing us an arm and a leg. At the moment we are going through the process of setting up the account.

7. Comments, observations, complaints?

If you have any items of news which you would like to be included in future newsletters please contact the chair. The contact is footloose.cumbria@gmail.com

Happy Walking
John Davies - Chair