

Lumphanan Paths Group

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2024

Last year's report began by stating 2023 had been a frustrating year and ended with the hope that 2024 would be more productive and indeed it has been

Our successes have been:

Refurbishment of the Glenmillan track which was severely storm damaged. Thanks go to Martin Ferries who did an excellent job which has been commented on by many walkers.

Refurbishment of the very popular and well used path, Lovers Lane. Again, very well received by our community. Thanks go to Murray Swapp for sourcing the funds through Aberdeenshire Council and persisting to highlight the project, Deeside Willow for the willow and Deeside Road Construction for refurbishing the path and installing the railings

Installation of a safer and more user-friendly gate at the bottom of the Cairnbeathie path. Thanks go to Mike Robertson for the installing of the gate with funding from LCRA and The British Horse Society

Our fundraising has also been a success this year.

Our card sales continue in several local venues showcasing how beautiful our local area is. Thanks go to our talented local photographers June Armstrong, Edith Smith, Bill Donald and Tom Main. An additional thanks to June for her background work dealing with the supplier, putting cards into envelopes, delivering to venues and other committee members for distribution.

Ann's book "History on the Highway" has been another huge success both in terms of book sales but also her very well attended and informative talk in the village hall. To date sales have been £2739 and costs are £1808. Sales continue again in a variety of venues from Lumphanan to Aboyne and we anticipate a second print.

The Storytelling event by storytellers Jackie Ross and Grace Banks although not as well attended as we had hoped was still enjoyed by all those who did attend.

Our Plant and Produce stall which was a first for us at Lumphanan Gala was an enjoyable afternoon raising £152 for our funds. Thanks to those committee members who supplied the gazebo, manned the stall and provided the plants and produce for the stall. A repeat performance this year.

Attendance at Lumphanan Primary School Christmas Fair was as always a great event to attend on the lead up to Christmas with £108 raised (not counting book sales). Following on the Christmas theme we attended Tarland Pop Up Christmas Fair where we sold our cards and Ann's book.

As a main part of our fundraising I would like to give our heartfelt gratitude to Janet for her hard work researching and applying for numerous funds over the years she has been a committee member. She will be a difficult one to replace but I am sure will remain on the end of the phone to give us tips and advice should we need it. That is until she leaves the area.

With regard to our community involvement in 2024 we or at least Sheila and Martin strimmed the length of the burn along Lover's Lane so that the ducks had a less hazardous float during the gala Duck Race. We also were instrumental in the re-siting, on behalf of Lumphanan Heritage Society, the Font from the now sold Stothert Church to its more prominent site in the village square. Thanks here go to Robert Marshall, Gerd Ubelhor and onlookers, Ann and myself. It was quite an event to witness. Hopefully we will have an information board installed in the near future detailing the font's story as researched by Ann.

Ann has also been successful with a great deal of persistence in getting St Finan's Churchyard strimmed and tidied up by Aberdeenshire Council. Again we aim to have an information board installed here. Well done and thank you Ann.

Our work parties continue to help maintain our paths and although we often feel work parties do not happen very often we have had 5 if not 6 during 2024. We couldn't however do without Jim Prince.

Marr Paths Forum continues to be a useful vehicle for communications between all Marr Paths groups Our hosting of their first Social Event was well received. Thank you to Jenna and Ann for being our representatives on the Forum.

So, once again we have achieved so much this year. It is when you look back over the year that you appreciate this. In 2025 we will continue our plan to open up The Comply, refurbish Macbeth's Well, create a path to the Peel Ring and research a path to Deeside Activity Park.... and doubtless more paths maintenance.

Finally, I would like to thank committee members who all do so much to keep our wee group going, each one of you contributes in your own way. Thanks also go to our volunteers who help out with our path maintenance and other bits and pieces.