

## **LUMPHANAN PATHS GROUP CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2023**

April 2024

Overall, 2023 appears at first to have been a slow and frustrating year regarding our paths development as we seem to have come across blockages at every stage, however, our perseverance will hopefully show results in 2024

### Fundraising

Our fundraising efforts have been very successful this year and our bank balance is healthy.

Card production is about to go into its third print and our cards continue to sell well. Thanks go to June Armstrong, Edith Smith, Tom Main and Bill Donald for allowing us to use their beautiful photos.

Our Quiz night in May was a success as was our attendance at Lumphanan Primary School Christmas Fair.

Having a stall at Aboyne Farmers market, although not financially huge, was useful in raising awareness of our group and the work that we have done and continue to do.

Fingers crossed that Ann's talk in May will also draw in the crowds and swell our bank account.

Thank you to all for making these fundraising efforts a success.

Our thanks also go to Lumphanan Heritage Society for nominating us as a potential beneficiary of the church sale.

### Projects

Our paths projects as I have said have been lacking in much progress, but we will keep going. To date the following has happened:

- Macbeth's Well refurbishment has the neighbouring residents in favour and Jim Sugden willing to get the work done. All that we are waiting for is Aberdeenshire Roads input.
- Oldtown drainage problem was fixed by the landowner, but the water has, as water does, rerouted itself and the problem has re-emerged in another area.
- The Glenmillan track is ongoing with Jim Lees preparing a quote for its repair.
- Lover's lane continues to progress in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council. Our thanks go to Murray Swapp.
- The Comply and Mortlich paths both have landowner issues which hopefully will be resolved and move forward in 2024.

- Our Paths Maintenance has had a boost by the contracting of Jim Prince to clear assigned paths twice yearly. This will make our paths clearing so much easier. We have also purchased two Stihl professional electric trimmers plus harnesses, batteries and charger to help us keep our paths clear. Originally we secured funding to purchase a Flail mower but after a demonstration on how it operated the decision was made to cancel the order. Janet Liversidge then negotiated with the funders that we could use the funding for this alternative piece of kit which is better suited to our needs. Thank you to Janet for her hard work securing funding for this project from Marr Area Committee Small grant, NESCAN Just Transition Seed Funding and our local Bread of Life.

Our leaflets continue to be popular and due to Ann Raeburn's input have been collated with all other Marr Paths Forum members leaflets and have been sent to the Grampian 50+Network for distribution.

We continue to be active members of Marr Paths Forum and our thanks go to Ann Raeburn and Jenna Storey for representing us.

So, although I have said that 2023 has been a frustrating year we have still achieved a lot. My thanks go to our committee members and volunteers for your continued support and input.