

## **LUMPHANAN PATHS GROUP CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2022.**

LPG have had yet another very successful year. At our 2021 AGM we welcomed three new members. Fiona Grant and June Armstrong as a committee members and Jane Jeffries as our new Treasurer. We also said au revoir to Deb Munro who had decided to step down from the committee but was keen to stay involved in the background by maintaining our website which is greatly appreciated.

Our Facebook page which is looked after by Ann and Jenna and our website which is maintained by Deb continue to keep our followers up to date on group activities e.g. work parties, and also gives insightful snippets on the natural and historical information behind our paths network. Thank you, Ann, Jenna and Deb.

Both these forms of social media are instrumental in communicating with our community and beyond.

We are now distributing our second edition of our ever-popular leaflet to local venues and hope it flies off the counters of these venues as it did in 2021.

Our funding group continues to successfully research and apply to a range of funders. Namely Tesco, Asda, MAP, Marr Area Committee, Nestrans, Scotways and CMH&W/AVA. At this point I would like to thank Janet for her continued hard work in submitting so many successful applications and also Jenna who secured funding for our sweatshirts and t-shirts.

In Oct 2021 we held our first Community Event for almost two years. It was reasonably successful as those who attended were interested and enthusiastic and we enlisted some new volunteers who have since participated in our work parties. These work parties are now held more frequently resulting in significant refurbishment of our paths.

Marr Paths Forum continues to meet regularly and is instrumental in maintaining communication and sharing of ideas and plans between Marr Paths groups. Thanks to Ann and Jenna who represent us.

We are also meeting with Torphins Paths Group and giving our support to their paths project linking our two villages.

Our work focus for 2022 has been the Comply. Ann and Scott Raeburn have been instrumental in pushing this project forward and our thanks and appreciation go to them. We would also like to thank Richard Elliot (Access Officer, Aberdeenshire Council) who negotiated the removal of the fence restricting access to The Comply. Volunteers and Committee members have now cleared down to the bridge ...felling trees, chopping down vegetation and having bonfires not to mention a sausage bbq courtesy of Gerd, one of our volunteers.

In the background to all of this we have been communicating with Steve Gray of Aberdeenshire Council on the refurbishment of one of their Core Paths, Lovers Lane. We have been advised that this project is on the 2022 workplan for the Council's Environment Team. Meanwhile LPG members have been investigating the condition of some of the trees along the path and secured quotes for their removal but Storm Arwen and the other storms have put paid to them, leaving only one tree in need of removal.

**This year Lumphanan will be hosting a Jubilee Picnic in the village park in place of its annual Gala. This will unfortunately mean we will not be able to fundraise but will hopefully bring the community together after the long Covid gap. We do, however, plan to have a fundraiser in the Autumn.**

**In conclusion I would like to thank all our committee members and volunteers for their hard work and commitment to LPG for yet another year. We are a brilliant team who complement each other's skills perfectly. Look out 2022-23.**