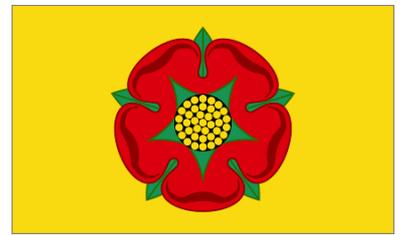


# The Friends of Real Lancashire

A county group of the Association of British Counties

From Philip Walsh: 07977 408791



## NEWS RELEASE - 18 March 2015

### North, South, East and West, Lancashire is Best!

Walkers on the Pennine Way near Oldham will from this week know when they are crossing the Lancashire / Yorkshire border! A marker post made from local stone will be erected on Bleakedgate Moor, close to Readycon Hill and accessed from the A672. It will represent the most easterly point of Lancashire.

The Friends of Real Lancashire have commissioned J. Child & Son Ltd of Bury Road, Rochdale to prepare the stone and inscribe the appropriate roses on the post. It will be unveiled at 3pm on Sunday 22 March by Debbie Abrahams MP who although was born in Yorkshire, proudly represents the Oldham East and Saddleworth constituency and whose husband John Abrahams played cricket for Lancashire! Mrs Abrahams is President of Greater Manchester and High Peak Ramblers. The MP sees great health benefits of walking and the role the Ramblers have to play in promoting walking for both health and enjoyment. Mrs Abrahams recently said, *“Walking is extremely important for the nation’s health, particularly in tackling obesity and improving mental health.”*

The Friends whose aims are to protect, preserve and promote the true identity of the traditional county of Lancashire have already marked three compass points with plaques; the most northerly at Elterwater in the Lake District, the most westerly on Walney Island near Barrow in Furness and the most southerly at Hale on the River Mersey.

The marker post comes at a time when the Government are changing highways regulations to allow traditional county names to appear on boundary road signs.

Philip Walsh, Chairman of the Friends of Real Lancashire said, *“The marking of the most easterly point in real Lancashire is indeed a milestone in our campaign to see the traditional boundaries of Lancashire restored. People are proud of their heritage. In this part of England, you are either a Lancastrian or Yorkshireman and ironically rather than being at war with one another, it actually binds us together.”*

Roger Gregson of J Child & Son Ltd Monumental Masons said, *“It has been a great pleasure to be involved in this historic event.”*

Ramblers are encouraged to join the unveiling party by meeting up at 2.30pm on the A672 southbound near to the “West Yorkshire” sign (Near J. 22 M62)

## Fact File:

- The post on the Pennine Way can be accessed from two main points: From the A672 Ripponden Road Car Park near the West Yorkshire Sign or from the A640 Huddersfield Road below Denshaw Moor.
  - The Friends had to seek permission from the landowner, G Crossley and Son of Rochdale and Natural England before the post could be erected. Bleakgate Moor is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
  - Debbie Abrahams MP was born in Yorkshire but is MP for Oldham and Saddleworth in real Lancashire.
  - The MP is President of the Greater Manchester and High Peak Ramblers.
  - No legislation has ever altered the boundaries of the traditional counties.
  - Changes to the boundaries of administrative areas do not affect traditional county boundaries.
  - If you live in the area shown on the map, you live in Lancashire.
  - The Friends campaign to protect, preserve and promote the true identity of the traditional county of Lancashire.
  - The marking of the boundaries are part of the long term project of defining a “very” long distance footpath around Lancashire.
  - Further information re traditional counties.
- <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-02-23/HL5107/>
- Friends of Real Lancashire [www.forl.co.uk](http://www.forl.co.uk)

