

Wellington Walkers are Welcome

Chair's Report for the AGM on the 3rd August 2025

Welcome everyone to our AGM. Thanks so much for coming and supporting us. It is now 15 years since Wellington became a Walkers are Welcome town.

I want to start, by thanking the committee for all the wonderful work that they do.

I haven't been able to contribute much at all this year, what with my hip replacement last September and then my treatment for a lymphoma this year. I just can't walk as fast as everyone else. I hope that will improve.

However the committee continues to achieve so much. Our Sunday walks on the first and third Sunday of the month remain a constant fixture, with committee members doing the leading and back marking.

We continue to organise our annual Walking Festival. This year's dates are the 8th to the 14th of September. The programme has been finalised, the leaflets printed and the bookings are coming in on the on line booking form via the website. Malcolm has managed much of the technical side of this and puts in a lot of time ensuring everything is correct.

Naomi as secretary deals with enquiries, keeps the website up to date and sends out regular emails to disseminate information about the walks in our area (amongst other things). She has been our secretary since the beginning. If anyone would like to take over this role I know she would be grateful, as she is actively involved in so many other local groups that it would be good if she could lighten her load.

Sheila our treasurer has decided to step down and Amanda will be taking over as our new treasurer. A big thank you to Sheila for the great work you've done in keeping track of our finances and a big thank you to Amanda for agreeing to take over.

I've mentioned Malcolm and his role in festival matters. But he does so much more - maintaining footpaths with his group of helpers twice a month, as well as addressing issues to do with footpaths and Rights of Way. He does an enormous amount and we are so lucky to have him on the committee.

Thanks also to Pam for the possibly thankless task of taking the Minutes of our meetings, a big thank you now, and Pam also leads many of our walks and maintains our links with rail rambles and Shropshire Supports Refugees. She also knows a lot about bus timetables - definitely extremely useful.

Jean is willing to write articles and speak on the radio to give us publicity and we are very glad and grateful that Jean is happy to do this.

Carol leads and back marks walks and is always willing to help - my thanks to her for being a valuable member of our committee.

Julie of Wellington Town Council is no longer an official WTC representative, but is still a committee member, remaining willing to help us if we need anything from the Council. She has always been an enthusiastic supporter, which is most welcome.

Richard joined our committee last year but has resigned now.

If there is someone who would like to join the committee you would be extremely welcome. And anyone who would like to take over the secretary's role would be especially welcome, even a new Chair because health issues for me and Jim (my husband) are unfortunately taking up a lot of our time.