

## Wellington Walkers are Welcome

### Chair's Report for the AGM on the 18th August 2024

Welcome to our 2024 AGM.

It was in June 2010, that Wellington was officially declared a Walkers are Welcome town - 14 years ago. Two of the original members of the steering group that started our bid to get Wellington Walkers are Welcome status are still on the committee - myself and Naomi.

We are growing a bit weary and a lot older, but we care about the organisation and what it has achieved - twice monthly Sunday walks; a popular week long Walking Festival, whose reach is steadily growing; a twice monthly path maintenance team that does a wonderful job in keeping footpaths in good condition; bringing issues about footpaths to the attention of the appropriate authorities; and work collaboratively with other organisations to promote Wellington and walking.

This last year has seen all the above taking place and we are now in the throws of advertising on our website and with our leaflets, this year's Walking Festival, which runs between the 9th and the 15th of September. Bookings are already coming in fairly fast, a sign that people are waiting to see what is on offer this year and are keen to get a place on their chosen event. Our Festival is now well established.

Holding stalls at events such as the Midsummer Fayre, The Green Festival and the upcoming Coracle Festival helps us promote ourselves and the Walking Festival. Thanks to all the helpers at these stalls and if anyone can help at the Coracle Festival on the 26th August, do let us know.

Thank you to Wellington Town Council for their ongoing support and to Julie who represents us at the Council.

A big thank you to our wonderful and effective committee - Secretary, Naomi; Sheila, our Treasurer; Malcolm, our Path Maintenance and Footpath Officer; Pam, our Minutes Secretary; Jean, our Publicity Secretary; Carol, Walk Leader; Amanda, Walk leader, Julie our representative from Wellington Town Council and Chris, Walk leader, who is not standing for re-election for this coming year.

We thank Chris for all her help and commitment over the last few years.

And without all the hard work from all the committee members, Wellington Walkers are Welcome could not exist and be the success that it is.