

# Wellington Walkers are Welcome

## Path Maintenance Team Organisers Report - AGM Sunday 06/08/23

Since the last AGM (07/08/22), we have worked on a total of 15 sessions, comprising circa 189 person-hours. During this period 7 sessions were cancelled - 2 due to availability (LAF meeting, and supporting Telford Big Walk Week), 3 due to adverse weather, and 2 due to finding no suitable work. Our average attendance across all sessions was 3.7 persons.

The worked sessions covered a similar range of activities to previous years including:

- Cutting back overgrown vegetation
- Clearing stiles / kissing gates
- Clearing fallen trees
- Litter picking (supplementary to path clearing, along and around areas worked)
- Litter picking (sole activity - twice)
- Maintaining way-marking of Rights of Way and designated routes / trails

During main 'growing seasons' our work is primarily clearance of undergrowth, outside of these times it has been dealing with fallen trees.

The sites we have worked on through the period, several of which we have visited more than once, include:

- Admaston – Elmsdale Crescent / Cheshire Coppice Lane
- Allscott - railway crossing
- Allscott - Shropshire Way (new)
- Apley Castle – Home Farm to Apley Woods (new)
- Christine Avenue boardwalk / M54 path
- Hutchison Way – Lawley
- Limekiln Woods - Boardwalk steps
- New Works (former coal site)
- Rushmoor Lane parallel path
- Sunnylands - Wrockwardine Road to Orleton Lane
- Tiddiecross - Old Shropshire Way, now one of the new TCW routes
- Wrekin Link (Admaston Allotments to Wrockwardine Road)
- Wrekin – lower end of path from Halfway House to Wrekin Course (new)
- Wrockwardine - clearing stiles around the village

Our major success early this year was to successfully re-open the lower end of the path off the Wrekin onto Wrekin Course. It had been blocked for several years with alternative narrow and steep paths around it that were both dangerous, and to some, inaccessible. We were assisted on the final session by the contractor to the T&W Rights of Way team to deal with the larger blockages requiring use of a chainsaw.

Following our path sessions, photographs and comments have been posted on Facebook and on our website. This has resulted in numerous responses thanking us for our work, including emails from local councillors, and from the T&W Pride in the Community and Rights of Way Teams.

We continue to lobby T&W Rights of Way team to deal with issues that are beyond our capabilities, such as significant fallen trees, and stile / footbridge repairs or replacements. In recent months we have had several successes in this area.

In September, we were asked by the T&W Pride in the Community Team, to participate in a short video to promote the work of the team and the Street Champions, in order to show that

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their objectives are not solely based around litter picking. The video was shown at a Street Champions meeting at Telford Theatre (Oakengates), and also used on the T&W website.

Equipment expenditure has been a little more this year – in addition to petrol and minor parts for the brush-cutter, we also had to replace the motor in the battery operated hedge trimmer.

Thanks again to everybody who has contributed to making the path maintenance team successful again this year. The impact of our work can be seen in the Path Team Galley on our website at: <https://www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/path-maintenance-new>

We are open to new volunteers joining our email list, and to receiving reports of footpath issues that we may be able to assist with.

Please contact us at: [PathTeam@wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk](mailto:PathTeam@wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk)