

Wellington Walkers are Welcome

Eleventh AGM, 3rd November 2021

Secretary's report

Committee/Membership Matters:

Since the last AGM, the management committee has met 9 times always on Zoom. The (virtual) minute book is available for inspection.

We now have 142 members, including 11 patrons (an increase of 13 from last year). Of these, 68 declare they are from Wellington itself, 106 total from near Wellington and 127 total from all of Telford and local villages. (12 of the remaining 15 have declared Shropshire, although I know at least 2 of these live in Telford). I have sub lists for patrons, for members and for committee/helpers (there are 27 on this latter list, an increase of 1).

In addition, our twice monthly emails go to another 50 people.

A reminder: We are still members of the Ramblers Worldwide Holidays Walking Partnership scheme and we receive money whenever one of our number goes on one of their holidays and nominates us. Again this year, most holidays have been cancelled.

Other Matters:

Since last year we have continued to attempt to raise our profile and have a voice in the town and the area. In order to do this, we have:

Core Activities

Held the tenth Wellington Walking Festival in September 2021.

In 2020, the festival was scaled down and our 10th anniversary celebration event was cancelled. This year we returned to our usual scale and held a celebration of our 10th festival. See separate report.

As last year, one of the walks was also part of the Shropshire Way Festival.

New this year, one of the events, the ever popular vineyard bus walk, was part of the national Walkers are Welcome Heritage themed walks (the theme was edible England).

Held 2 regular walks each month when possible (so not the 2nd in November, 2nd in January, both February and both March walks). These are on the first and third Sundays. Until October they had been booking only, but we have now changed them to booking preferred.

The walk on December 6th was part of the national Walkers are Welcome national tree week event.

We encouraged walkers to walk 10 miles on their own or with their family or friends and join the Hope House Hospice's Take a Hike event in March. We raised our target of £250.

The first walk in July was an excursion by train to Chirk incorporating a 10 mile walk as part of Offa's Dyke 50th anniversary celebrations. (This was so successful that we repeated it in the festival.)

Continued to keep the website and Facebook page up to date and advertise our events on Twitter.

We started a Facebook group as well as the page in an attempt to get more 2-way communication. This hasn't really worked, but we are persisting for the time being.

Thanks to Bob (our Footpath Secretary) and Malcolm (or Path maintenance Group Organiser) we have continued to be very active on the footpath front this year, see more details in their reports.

With Jean on the committee our publicity is in good hands, see the publicity secretary's report.

Eve submitted our annual report and again received good feedback.

Since the last AGM, Pam has been taking the committee minutes and preparing agendas, which has been a great help.

Links

I have continued as an admin on the Love Wellington Facebook page
Maintained links with Walking for Health- Telford and Wrekin, the Friends of the Telford T50 50 Mile Trail and the Telford and East Shropshire Ramblers group (we continue to work very well together on the T50 trail).

Worked with the Shropshire Way association, as above, we again contributed a walk to the Shropshire Way Festival September 2021.

We have had just one joint stall with both Walking for Health and the friends of the Telford T50 50 mile trail, at Lightmoor during the walking festival in September.

Attended the one virtual Local Access Forum meeting that was held to introduce the on line definitive map.

Represented WWaW on the Telford Green Spaces partnership (no meetings this year but there have been information exchanges via email) and represented TGSP on the Borough's Climate Change Partnership.

Attended the annual WaW get together in October in Kington.

Continued as a Walkers are Welcome mentor, again appraising the annual reports of the other Shropshire WaW towns. I am still on the national committee. I am particularly active on the National Events and publicity subgroup, look after the news items, and do other small jobs, on the national website.

The next year:

We would hope to take part in any national themed events (? a national litter pick in the spring)

We hope there will more opportunities for local publicity stalls in the coming year.

We hope to hold our 11th Wellington Walking Festival in September 2022.

We will also send at least one delegate to the National Get-Together in Alton in October 2022.

Naomi Wrighton 28th October 2021