**Wellington Walkers are Welcome**

**Eighth AGM , 1st July 2018**

**Secretary's report**

**Committee/Membership Matters:**

Since the last AGM the management committee has met 10 times for full meetings ; a Festival planning subcommittee met twice. The (virtual) minute book is available for inspection.

We asked people to re-sign up because of GDPR. We now have 81 members, including 6 patrons. Of those 40 declare they are from Wellington itself, 61 total from nearby Wellington and 73 total from all of Telford and local villages. (5 of the remaining 8 have declared Shropshire, although I know at least 3 of these live in Telford) . The number of members is creeping up towards the previous 90 as people realise they are no longer getting the emails. (3 in the last week).

I am have sub lists for patrons, for members and for committee/helpers ( there are 18 on this latter list).

A reminder: We are still members of the Ramblers Worldwide Holidays Walking Partnership scheme and now are receiving money whenever one of our number goes on one of their holidays and nominates us .

**Other Matters:**

Over the past 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 :

Held our sixth walking festival in September 2017.

Arranged our seventh walking festival which will be held in September 2018.

Held 2 regular walks each month. These are on the first and third Sundays.

Three of the committee were on the Telford T50 50 mile trail group. We had a very successful launch on June 16th. The trail was launched by Kate Ashbrook, the patron of WaW nationally.

Contributed 2 walks to the Wellington Spring Festival.

Continued to keep the website and facebook page up to date. The website is in process of a facelift. We will transfer the registration to wix when our current arrangement runs out.

Sent the occasional tweet as [@WellingtonWaW1](https://twitter.com/i/redirect?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2FWellingtonWaW1%3Fcn%3DbWVudGlvbg%253D%253D%26refsrc%3Demail&t=1&cn=bWVudGlvbg%3D%3D&sig=ae1e18f3483e3a009c4f9d51ae0bacb911d29d1a&iid=7f56d43e29364414975eaa4bb0b52937&uid=4920160450&nid=4+1271)

Maintained links with Walking for Health- Telford and Wrekin and the Telford and East Shropshire Ramblers group (we worked very well together on the T50 trail ) .

Worked with the Shropshire Way association, hosting the launch of the Southern section in the 2017 Wellington Walking Festival.

We have run joint stalls with both Walkabout Wrekin and LA21 at local events .

Bob (our Footpath Secretary) has developed 2 further leaflets in the Wellington 360 series, see his report.

Thanks to Bob 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.

Contributed to meetings of various bodies concerned with walking in Telford and Shropshire

Submitted our annual report and received good feedback.

Attended the annual WaW get together in October.

I have again acted as a Walkers are Welcome monitor, this year appraising the annual reports of the other Shropshire WaW towns.

The 2016 Wellington Walking Festival won the Community Event category in the Telford Active Lifestyles awards.The Wellington 360 project was a runner up in the Healthy Spaces Project category. The **Station Walkers' Information Notice Board** was third in the national ACORP Small Projects Award

**The next year:**

In the immediate future we have the Walking Festival to publicise and run, including running a stall at Lions Day on Wheels (July 8th ).

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

**I still feel that publicity is our weakest area , we would still dearly like someone to volunteer to help us with this.**

**Bob and, to a lesser extent, me, are de facto fulfilling this role but we would like to be able to concentrate on other things.**