

Wellington Walkers are Welcome

Chair's Report for the AGM on the 3rd November 2021

It has been a good year for Wellington Walkers are Welcome and walking, despite Covid 19 and having to learn to do things differently to ensure everyone's safety.

I am now back to full fitness and am so enjoying being able to walk properly again. It makes me want to get more people walking and enjoying the lovely paths in and around Wellington, which is the core aim of Wellington Walkers are Welcome.

We continue to offer a 2 hour led walk on the first and third Sunday of every month and have put on a week of varied walks in our Walking Festival, 25 events in all, in the second week of September. Our Footpath Secretary deals with footpath issues and our Path Maintenance Secretary organises fortnightly path maintenance sessions and this all enhances the experience of walking locally.

All this is possible because of the wonderful members of our committee, who work so hard to organise events and lead and back mark walks.

Naomi our secretary does an amazing job communicating with our members to keep them abreast of walking opportunities around Wellington. She does this by keeping our website up to date, using social media to advertise events and sending out twice monthly emails about our walks and local events.

Sheila our Treasurer has kept careful records of our finances, for which we are very grateful.

Bob our Footpath Secretary has worked so hard to review issues concerning the Definitive map and Rights of Way to name just a few of the tasks he has undertaken. He has decided to stand down after the AGM because of health issues. We are sad to see him go but understand his reasons.

Malcolm our Path Maintenance Secretary has worked tirelessly to organise and carry out path clearing sessions regularly since Covid restrictions started to be lifted and he looks after the equipment meticulously. In addition this year he has taken on the task of formatting our Walking Festival leaflet and the IT work that goes with organising the festival. It has taken the burden of this off Naomi. Few of us realise how much time is involved in this - Malcolm does now!

Pam has taken on the task of keeping the minutes of our committee meetings and this has been so helpful.

Jean our Publicity Secretary has been wonderful in getting articles in the local newspapers and speaking on Radio Shropshire, which all helps to raise our profile and let more people know what we do.

Julie is our new member from Wellington Town Council. Her enthusiasm for what we do is a great tonic and she is eager to get us all the support from the council that we need.

Chris has joined our committee and is a great helper, leading and back marking walks and helping with distributing leaflets.

It is so good to have all of you on the committee, with all of your varied skills, expertise and energy. Together we are achieving more and more and I hope we can continue to get more people coming to Wellington to walk.