

Wellington Walkers are Welcome

Path Maintenance Organisers Report - AGM Wednesday 03/11/21

Path maintenance activities were again impacted over the last 12 months by the lockdowns imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic.

We had a complete shutdown from January to the end of April thereby losing 4 months of activity. Regular sessions with larger numbers using shared cars have not taken place until more recently, and even now we try to avoid shared cars where possible. A number of smaller sessions were held at certain points in order to maintain access on some footpaths.

Therefore since the last AGM, over a 12 month period, we have only worked on a total of 15 sessions, comprising circa 200 person-hours, with only 2 sessions cancelled outside of lockdowns - 1 due to weather conditions, and 1 due to Christmas. Our average attendance across all sessions was 4.1 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)
- Maintaining way-marking of Rights of Way and designated routes / trails

Our sessions during the main 'growing seasons' continue to be more productive due to the use of the petrol engine brush-cutter.

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
- Bratton (Moor Farm path)
- Burcotgate
- Christine Avenue - Boardwalk / M54
- Ercall woods - Shropshire Way
- Lawley - Hutchison Way
- Limekiln Woods - Boardwalk steps
- Limekiln Woods - Limekilns towards Short Woods
- New Works (former coal site)
- Rushmoor Lane parallel path
- Sunnylands Wrockwardine Road to Orleton Lane
- Tiddiecross - Old Shropshire Way
- Wrekin Link (Admaston Allotments to Wrockwardine Road)
- Wrockwardine - clearing stiles around the village

It has been noticeable again, that footfall on many of the paths has increased due to lockdowns and the promotion of outdoor activities, and this helped to keep growth down and maintain accessibility.

Equipment expenditure has been minimal – comprising mainly petrol and parts for the brush-cutter.

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We continue to lobby Telford & Wrekin Council to deal with issues that are beyond our capabilities, such as significant fallen trees, and stile / footbridge repairs or replacements, albeit with limited success.

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

Regular sessions are currently back to pre-pandemic levels although we are still aware of and comply with Covid best practice recommendations.

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