

Wellington Walkers are Welcome

Tenth AGM , 29th October 2020

Secretary's report

Committee/Membership Matters:

Since the last AGM, the management committee has had 6 regular meetings then met several times (4 were minuted) on Zoom. The (virtual) minute book is available for inspection.

We now have 129 members, including 8 patrons (an increase of 27 from last year). Of these, 63 (up 14) declare they are from Wellington itself, 96 total from near Wellington and 116 total from all of Telford and local villages. (9 of the remaining 13 have declared Shropshire, although I know at least 4 of these live in Telford) . I have sub lists for patrons, for members and for committee/helpers (there are 26 on this latter list, an increase of 6).

In addition our twice monthly emails go to another 49 people.

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 . This year planned holidays have been cancelled.

Other Matters:

Since June 2019 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 eight and ninth Wellington Walking Festivals in September 2019 and September 2020.

(The 2020 festival was scaled down and our 10th anniversary celebration event was cancelled. We were pleased to host Baz Fewster, the National Chair, for the final walk and pre walk picnic lunch with some of the committee. We were officially thanked by the Mayor of Wellington for holding the festival in such uncertain times. See separate report.)

Held 2 regular walks each month (apart from April, May and the first Sunday in June). These are on the first and third Sundays.

Continued to keep the website and Facebook page up to date.

Transferred the hosting of the website to Wix so our domain name now goes straight to the website.

Sent the occasional tweet as [@WellingtonWaW1](#)

Contributed a walk to the Wellington Spring Festival and arranged that Walking for Health contributed one too.

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 has improved markedly, see the publicity secretary's report.

Eve submitted our annual report and received good feedback.

We planned to take part in the first national WaW event, the Litter Pick in March but that was cancelled . We publicised our first post lockdown walk nationally.

Links

Continued as an admin on the Love Wellington Facebook page, thanks to our comments the walking section on the new Love Wellington website is more comprehensive than the original and features the WaW logo. We planned to lead walks for Get Telford Walking 2020, an initiative by the Friends of the Telford T50 and public health at T&W Council in its second year. But this was cancelled.

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, we contributed a walk to the Shropshire Way Festival in both September 2019 and 2020.

We planned to run joint stalls with both Walkabout Wrekin and LA21 at local events, but, apart from the T&W Connecting Communities event in October 2019 in Oakengates, these have been cancelled.

Attended Local Access Forum meetings (currently suspended).

Represented WWaW on the Telford Green Spaces partnership (no meetings since the beginning of the year) and represented TGSP on the Borough's Climate Change Partnership.

Attended the annual WaW get together in October in Kirkby Stephen in October 2019, this year's has been cancelled.

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 new National Events sub group and look after the news items, and do other small jobs, on the national website.

The next year:

We plan to put on a walk in National Tree Week (Dec 6th) as encouraged by the national themed events subgroup and participate in the national litter pick and any other national initiatives.

We hope to hold our 10th Wellington Walking Festival in September 2021 and to hold our postponed celebration then.

We will also send at least one delegate to the National Get-Together in Kington in October 2021 and to the AGM wherever and whenever that is. (Currently it looks like being on Zoom).