

## Wellington Walkers are Welcome

### Thirteenth AGM, 6th August 2023

#### Secretary's report

##### Committee/Membership Matters:

Since the last AGM, the management committee has met 8 times for full meetings, plus 2 single issue meetings. All meetings have been on Zoom. The (virtual) minute book is available for inspection.

Last year we welcomed 2 new members to the committee, Amanda and Greg.

We were very sorry to hear of the death of one of our founding committee members, Brian Herring. 3 of the committee attended his funeral, and came away wishing they had known this remarkable man better.

We now have 175 members, including 12 patrons (an increase of 20 or 13% from last year). Of these, 82 declare they are from Wellington itself, 125 total from near Wellington and 154 total from all of Telford and local villages. (15 of the remaining 21 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 25 on this latter list).

In addition, our twice monthly emails go to another 67 people (disappointingly, 18 of these state they live in Wellington, but at least 2 don't, living on The Rock and in London ).

##### 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:

Delivered the eleventh Wellington Walking Festival in September 2022.

Many of the events were fully booked.

We were very pleased to welcome Amanda Graham and Carol Round onto the planning group Again in 2022, one of the events, celebrating Thomas Parker, was part of the Heritage Open Days Event and hence of the national Walkers are Welcome themed events.

Also, as is tradition, one of the events was on the Shropshire Way Festival programme.

There were 9 new events among the 30

We decided to mark the start of the Festival with 3 walks starting at the same time outside Wellington Leisure Centre, and finish with the opportunity to meet for tea or coffee in the Orbit.

Both of these worked well and are being repeated for 2023

Feedback forms received were overwhelmingly positive. We were asked to shuffle the events around, which we have, and to repeat certain events, which we have.

Planned the twelfth Wellington Walking Festival for September 2023.

Bookings are coming in well, with some events already fully booked.

Again one of the events, Walking with Giants, is part of the Heritage Open Days Event and hence of the national Walkers are Welcome themed events.

Also, as above, one of the events is on the Shropshire Way Festival programme. The route has been varied slightly for this year, but still follows the Shropshire Way from Little Wenlock to Wellington.

There are 15 new events, and among the 33, together with 3 events returning after a gap. 10 of the new events are "Telford Coronation Walks" see below.

Held 2 regular walks each month.

These are on the first and third Sundays. we have continued to make them booking preferred.

We again joined the Hope House Hospice's Take a Hike event on March 12<sup>th</sup> This year this was an extra walk, we were surprised to have snow. Also, not a regular walk, but Nov 12<sup>th</sup> Saturday - Walk and Talk with Radio Shropshire organised by Malcolm, led by him and about 12 others. It was well received. We also put on an extra walk for the Coronation at the request of Love Wellington. See the Appendix below.

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

The Facebook group is continuing to function as we hoped with communication from members. We are also frequent contributors to the inward-looking Walkers are Welcome Members and the outward-looking Walkers are Welcome Towns Facebook groups

Continued

## Supported the national network

I have continued as a Walkers are Welcome mentor, again appraising the annual reports of the other Shropshire WaW towns. Wellington has featured in two editions, and is about to do so again, of the outward facing Walk this Way newsletter <https://walkersarewelcome.org.uk/walk-this-way/>. I attended the AGT in Alton in October. I am still on the national committee. I am particularly active on the National Events and publicity subgroup. I look after the news items, the newsletter pages and the national events page on the national website. We were delighted that the WaW national patron, Kate Ashbrook, visited Telford as a guest of the Friends of the T50. She accompanied Malcolm and me on the Wellington coronation walk, see below. See her account of this here <https://campaignerkate.wordpress.com/2023/07/22/sparkle-on-the-ercall/>

See the Chair's (Eve's) report for the activities of the individual committee members  
Eve submitted our annual report and again received good feedback.  
See also Malcolm's 2 reports for the vital work we do on the path network.

## Links

We have good links with Love Wellington, we put on a walk for them and they give us publicity in "This is our Wellington"

We have maintained links with Ramblers Wellbeing Walks Telford and Wrekin (Walking for Health), the Friends of the Telford T50 50 Mile Trail and the Telford and East Shropshire Ramblers group. We continue to work very well together as the Friends of the T50 trail. We have had several joint stalls with both Ramblers Wellbeing Walks and the Telford T50 including Spring into St Georges at Telford Town Park, Forum 50+ events and Wellington Midsummer Fayre. Others are planned, This year 3 of our committee, plus another of our members are very active in developing the Telford Coronation Walks  
<https://www.telfordt5050miletrail.org.uk/tcw>.

We also contributed 3 walks as WWaW to Telford Big Walk Week.

We continue to work with the Shropshire Way association, some of the committee are path champions. Following an inspiring presentation at the national get together in 2021 we continued our activity with Slow Ways, ensuring the verification of our preferred Shrewsbury to Telford route. The timing of the Great Slow Ways Summer Waycheck, June 16th to 25th was unfortunate for us. I walked one route (Wheaton Aston to Telford) that was poor and with company walked a much better one (Codsall to Telford) by the time of the AGM I hope we will have this verified. We have put Newport to Telford on the Festival programme and bookings are going well.

(With my T50 hat on, I attended the one 2 Local Access Forum meetings, Malcolm is our rep on the forum.)  
I have continued to represent WWaW on the Telford Green Spaces partnership, there have been no general meetings this year but there have been information exchanges via email but no one from our committee has been on training events this year.

## The next year (August to August) :

We are holding our 12<sup>th</sup> Wellington Walking Festival in September 2023

We will send at least one, and I hope more, delegate to the annual WaW get together in November in Whitchurch, Shropshire. It is unlikely to be so close again.

We would hope to take part in the national themed events (Heritage Open Days in September, the new Celebrate your local themed path in May and the Great Slow Ways Summer Waycheck in June)

We will continue attending local publicity events, including, newly, the coracle regatta (stall booked).

We intend to plan our 13<sup>th</sup> Wellington Walking Festival for September 2024

(We will of course, continue our practical and other work on the footpath network).

**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.

Naomi Wrighton 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023

## Appendix


Some of our walks as reported (from Facebook posts) to the various committee meetings

**Aug 7th Wrekin/AGM Eve and Naomi**

**Aug 21st Malcolm and Pam Ercall Link**

Wellington Walkers are Welcome shared a post.  
Admin · 7 August at 18:50 · 🌐


Sunday walk and AGM ...  
Any walk that ends with cake is a good walk, which actually made this a great walk. Slightly shorter than our normal Sunday walks, although some made the extra effort and walked from Wellington to the start of the walk, and back again afterwards (to work off those extra calories?)  
Thanks to Eve, our chairperson, for both hosting the tea and cake, and the AGM after the walk, and for leading it as well, on nicely shaded paths along the side of The Wrekin... [See more](#)



You, Chris Jay, Carol Round and 6 others · Seen by 79

Wellington Walkers are Welcome shared a post.  
Admin · 22 August at 15:17 · 🌐

Third Sunday Walk - The Ercall...  
A circular walk via Steeraway then across onto The Ercall making use of some of the paths we cleared last Thursday.  
A quick visit to the summit for the views, then returning through the old quarry and down Ercall Lane.  
Thanks to Chris and Dave for most of the photo's...



You, Anne Suffolk, Carol Round and 8 others · 6 comments · Seen by 92

Like Comment Send

## Sept 4th Dave Cooke and Amanda



Wellington Walkers are Welcome

Published by Malcolm Skelton · 4 September · 🌐



Thanks to our guest leader, Dave, and Amanda, for leading our Sunday afternoon walk today on The Ercall.

Great to see some new, and returning faces among our walkers.



Wellington Walkers are Welcome

Published by Malcolm Skelton · 2 October at 19:16 · 🌐



1st Sunday Walk - October ...

Well, everyone on today's walk now knows where the shiny new gate is - just look at the queue to get through it 😊

Our route took us out through Dothill LNR, then across towards Admaston where almost everyone enjoyed an apple from the community orchard.

Through Wrekin Link (and the new gate) and over to Murphys Field where we picked up 2 more walkers for a short while 😊

Finally finishing off via Bowring Park.

Sept 18th was part of the festival

Oct 2nd Malcolm /Eve



## Oct 16th Chris and Carol

Today's walk through limekiln woods and Shortwood. Thanks Chris and Carol



You and 14 others      1 comment    Seen by 138

Like      Comment      Send



Wellington Walkers are Welcome  
Published by Chris Jay · 16 October · 🌐

## Nov 6th – Slow Ways Naomi and Malcolm We now have 2 verifications for ShrTel Two Hoping for another.



## Nov 20th Pam and Greg

The third Sunday of the month walk led by Pam with Gregory Vernon backmarking.



Not a regular walk, but Nov 12th Saturday - Walk and Talk with Radio Shropshire organised by Malcolm , led by him and about 12 others. It was well received and generated Cash collections on the day in the donation buckets raised £171.14, together with the sale of 'Pudsey Ears' it came to £217.59

We are unable to quantify the amount raised using the QR codes or the BBC website as they include general donations and those from other events



**Dec 4th Naomi and Malcolm**  
**Lime kiln Wood and Maddox Hill**

**Dec 18th Pam ad Amanda**  
**Hadley Locks**

**Wellington Walkers are Welcome**  
Published by Malcolm Skilton · 4 December 2022

Thanks Naomi for this afternoon walk up through Limekiln Woods to Maddocks Hill and back. A bit muddy in places, but that's what boots are for! It's good to see different aspects through the changing seasons.  
Thanks too to our walkers who weren't put off by a possibly gloomy forecast - we only had a bit of very light rain towards the end.

See Insights and Ads [Boost post](#)

27 2 comments 5 shares

Like Comment Share

**Jan 1st – Chris and Sheila  
Ercall**

**Wellington Walkers are Welcome**  
Published by Malcolm Skilton · 1 January at 16:46

Thanks to Chris and Sheila for leading our first walk of 2023 this afternoon. Great to see so many keen to get out despite being not the best weather.  
It was a bit damp to start with, and seemed to do the opposite to the forecast, and stayed dry afterwards.  
We may also have found the first job of the new year for our Path Team, a fallen tree just over the footbridge from Golf Links Lane onto The Ercall.

See Insights and Ads [Boost post](#)

23 4 comments 5 shares

Like Comment Share

**Jan 15th Jean and Sheila -  
Dothill, Apley and Leegomery**

**Wellington Walkers are Welcome**  
Published by Chris Jay · 15 January at 16:57

26 enjoyed the afternoon walk led by Jean and Sheila. We went to Admaston via the Wellington link, Tee Lake, Apley, Leegomery and back to Wellington.

See Insights and Ads [Boost post](#)

30 1 comment 2 shares

Like Comment Share

**Wellington Walkers are Welcome**  
Published by Malcolm Skilton · 18 December 2022 at 18:59

Thanks Pam and Amanda for our last Sunday walk of 2022.  
It did turn out a bit damp in places, but despite that 13 of us had a lovely walk down to the recently restored locks at Hadley Park. Notice that they both now have lock gates fitted, and spot the difference in the lifting gear between each of them.  
We ended the walk coming back through Wellington Market Square just as dusk fell to make the Christmas lights really stand out.  
Thanks to all our walkers and supporters through... See more

See Insights and Ads [Boost post](#)

27 2 comments 6 shares

Like Comment Share

**Feb 5<sup>th</sup> Malcolm and Greg  
Ketley and Paddock Mound from Hadley**

**Wellington Walkers are Welcome**  
Published by Malcolm Skilton · 5 February at 12:32

This fantastic artwork was the inspiration for our Sunday afternoon walk from Tesco Express in Hadley. It's on the bridge over the old railway line off the main Wellington-Wolverhampton line, just as it comes into Ketley. The line then went on to Horsehay, and to Ironbridge. The Horsehay section is now the Telford Steam Railway. From Ketley we followed the Ironbridge Way to just before it crosses the M54, where we picked up the Telford T50 Trail up to Paddock Mound and the ... See more

See Insights and Ads Boost post

44 11 comments 4 shares

Like Comment Share

**Feb 19<sup>th</sup> Pam and Chris  
Eyton Hall from Shawbirch, Snowdrops.**

**Wellington Walkers are Welcome**  
Published by Malcolm Skilton · 19 February at 19:53

Thanks to Pam and Chris for this afternoons walk, and of course to all the walkers who joined us visiting Eyton Hall for the annual 'Snowdrops (and tea and cake!) Walk in aid of Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. There were so many that Carol and I also aired our hi-vis to help with the walk.

See Insights and Ads Boost post

31 3 shares

Like Comment Share

**March 5<sup>th</sup> Naomi and Sheila  
Daffodils- Leegomery, Apley, Skirt Dothill**

**Naomi Wrighton**  
Admin · Top contributor · 5 March

We found a few daffodils and some art this pm. It was good to put faces to some names.

**Extra Walk March 12<sup>th</sup> Naomi and Pam  
Chirk for Hope House**

**Wellington Walkers are Welcome**  
Published by Naomi Wrighton · 12 March at 17:27

We went on with the extra walk, even, though the Hope House event itself was cancelled. Certainly more snow there than here but OK under foot. Trains went smoothly. Donation page is at <https://www.justgiving.com/.../wellingtonwalkersarewelcom...> if you would like to support Hope House



**March 19<sup>th</sup> Malcolm and Amanda Ercall**

**Wellington Walkers are Welcome**  
Published by Malcolm Skelton · 19 March at 22:27 · 🌐

There was a bit more mud than expected on our Sunday afternoon walk along the Ercall and back through Limekiln Woods, and also a major tree fall blocking a path we intended to use, but fortunately we'd been advised earlier via Facebook and had an alternative way around. Thanks to all who came today ...

**April 2nd Pam and Greg Dothill and Apley**

**Gregory Vernon**  
2 April at 17:26 · 🌐

To-days walk to Dothill local Nature Reserve Led by Pam Backmarker Greg. 14 of us enjoyed a sunny and warm afternoon it had that spring feeling it was good to be out.

**April 16<sup>th</sup> Jean and Chris Hadley Locks and Apley**

**Wellington Walkers are Welcome**  
Published by Chris Jay · 16 April at 11:01 · 🌐

Thanks to Jean for leading us to Hadley lock and Chris for backmarking and photos.

See Insights and Ads [Boost post](#)

You and 26 others · 2 comments · 2 shares

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

**May 7<sup>th</sup> Pam and Amanda Royal Roads in Wellington**

**Wellington Walkers are Welcome**  
Published by Malcolm Skelton · 13h · 🌐

Sundays regular walk ...  
Seven walkers joined Pam and Amanda in beautiful sunshine to explore central Wellington's roads with a royal connection on some lesser known paths. We enjoyed refreshments at the cafe in Bowling Park while the group was quizzed on how many of the eleven names had been recognized. **Congratulations** to Amanda for correctly guessing.

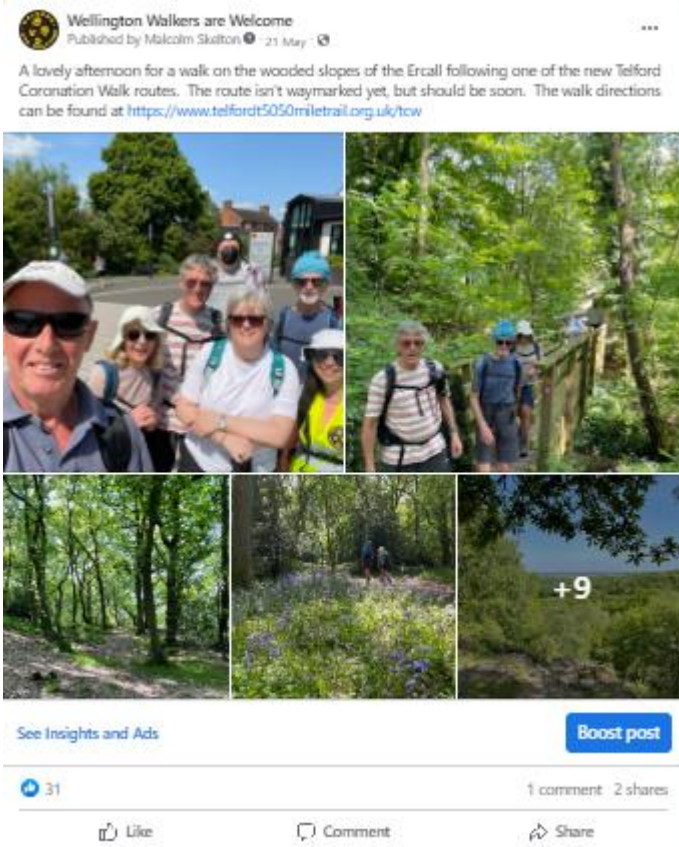
See Insights and Ads [Boost post](#)

7 · 1 comment · 2 shares

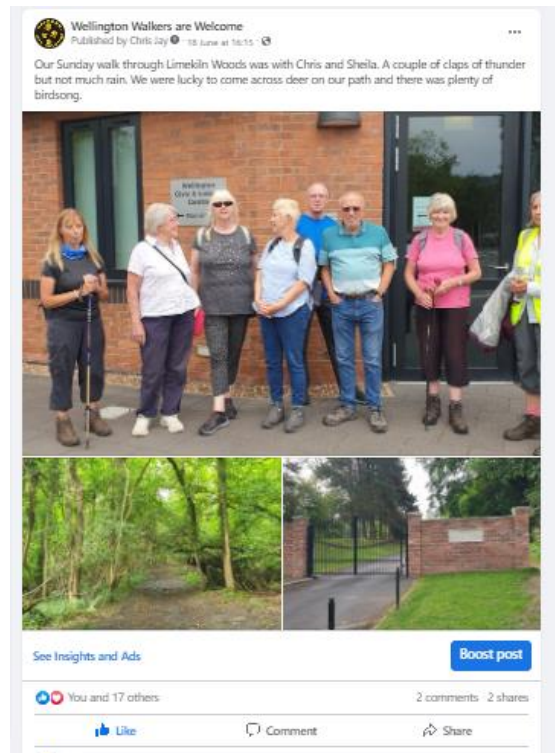
**May 8<sup>th</sup> Jean and Eve  
Dothill and Apley**



**May 21st Malcolm and Eve Ercall ,  
Note No 1<sup>st</sup> June walk due to Big Walk Week**



**June 18<sup>th</sup> Chris and Sheila  
Limekiln Woods**



## July 2<sup>nd</sup> Pam and Sheila

### Dothill including Kay and Andrew's garden

**Wellington Walkers are Welcome**  
Published by Malcolm Skilton · 2 July at 17:58 · 🌐

10 walkers joined Pam and Sheila for a leisurely exploration of Bratton, Shawbirch and Dothill LNR. The highlight was a visit to the garden of our regular walkers, Andrew and Kay, who have created a beautiful oasis of calm and colour using reclaimed materials and rescued plants. Many thanks to them both for the warm hospitality and welcome ice creams.



See Insights and Ads [Boost post](#)

👍❤️ 17 2 shares

👍 Like    💬 Comment    📧 Send

**Note;** thanks are due to Kay and Andrew, Pam has emailed them to express our thanks, for the tour and the ices.

..and, for completeness,

**Wellington Walkers are Welcome**  
Published by Chris Jay · 16 July at 17:05 · 🌐

14 of us enjoyed a walk led by Jean and Sheila to see the artwork in the landscape of Hadley, Leegomery and Apley. Thanks to both.



👍❤️ 7

**July 16<sup>th</sup> Jean and Sheila,  
Apley, Leegomery Art.**