

Wellington Walkers are Welcome

Chair's Report for the AGM on 7th August 2022

It has been a year when Covid restrictions have been lifted despite high infection rates with less serious variants. We have had to stay vigilant to keep people safe but walking outdoors has been a great escape. Being able to offer opportunities for walking and information about walking events elsewhere, feels very useful.

A big change this year is Malcolm stepping up to cover the space left by Bob who stepped down after the last AGM.

That means Malcolm has about 3 jobs on the committee - Footpath Secretary, chasing issues about footpaths and Rights of Way; Path Maintenance Secretary, organising and carrying out work on our local footpaths and looking after our equipment; and being a key person working on our Walking Festival planning, leaflet creation and monitoring bookings.

He does all of this extremely diligently and I am so very grateful for his very hard work and attention to detail.

Naomi our secretary continues to do a wonderful job looking after our website and using social media and fortnightly emails to spread information about all things to do with local walking. She is also on the national Walkers are Welcome Committee so keeps up with all that is happening nationally.

Sheila our Treasurer does a thorough job of keeping careful track of our finances and worked hard to change our bank account to another bank, to avoid paying bank charges.

Pam takes the Minutes of our Committee meetings for which we are all very grateful.

Jean is our Publicity Secretary and she is always willing to write an article or speak on the radio to let the public know what we are doing.

Julie is our Wellington Town Council committee member and her support is always there should we need it.

Chris is always around to step in and lead or back mark walks, deliver leaflets and help wherever she is needed.

Our Walking Festival, our 11th, is looming - 12-18th September. It seems more people know about us and the Festival and are booking early. This feels a significant sign that the Walking Festival is growing in popularity and is really a permanent fixture in many more local people's calendar.

It is through the tremendous hard work of the committee that we have achieved so much, not only doing all the tasks I've just detailed above, but leading and back marking our twice monthly Sunday afternoon walks too. I offer them a huge vote of thanks.

We are always looking for new committee members to share the load, so we would really like more people to join the committee. We have been meeting on Zoom every 4-6 weeks. Come and join us.

Eve Clevenger
August 2022