

Wellington Walkers are Welcome
AGM 2nd July 2017
Chair's Report

Thank you all for coming to our AGM today; Pam for leading this afternoon's walk; Bob and Dorothy for letting us mingle in your gardens; and a special thank you to Naomi and Jan for kindly hosting this AGM.

I think Wellington Walkers are Welcome have had another successful year.

Walkers continue to turn out on our **first and third Sunday afternoon walks**. They always express their gratitude to our walk leaders for guiding them along the many walking routes in and around Wellington. May I extend a big thank you to all our volunteer leaders and back markers for making these afternoons so enjoyable and valuable.

Our annual **Walking Festival** will take place between the 11th and 17th September. We have a number of new events this year which include a walk and tour of Telford Steam Railway at Horsehay, a Ranger led walk around the Deer Park at Attingham, a Madeley Heritage walk, a walk to Smalley Hill Nature Reserve, a walk in the Dothill Local Nature Reserve to view the birds of the area, an evening talk about the Shropshire Way and a film night to see 'A Walk in the Woods' starring Robert Redford walking the Appalachian Trail.

The leaflets about the festival have just been printed. Booking for events is now open so do go online to see all of the 27 events on offer. Tell your friends and relatives to come to Wellington and join us for the week. It would be wonderful to get more people attending. The walks are still free, unlike most Walking Festivals,(although we are grateful if walkers wish to make a voluntary donation to help us defray our costs).

I enjoy the **links** we have with the Walking for Health Groups, the Telford and East Shropshire Ramblers, LA21, the Shropshire Wildlife Trust and many more. (Bob, our Footpath Secretary will tell you about the very many groups with whom he forges links). Together we raise the profile of walking and the environment, for the benefit of all.

I must now **thank everyone on the committee** for all their hard work in promoting walking; Naomi - our most able and effective secretary, whose priority is to communicate to all our members and those interested in walking by emailing, regularly updating our website and by the use of Facebook. Its a crucial role keeping information up to date. We also all benefit from her formidable IT skills, creating our Festival leaflets, adverts and more; Kevin - our most careful Treasurer, who ensures we use our funds prudently; Bob - our tenacious Footpath Secretary, who has a 'foothold' in a vast number of organisations related to footpaths and walking. He pushes to enhance the experience of walkers, as well as raising the profile of our group, not to mention the amount of work he has done to get the project of the two 360 leaflets off the ground and completed; Dorothy - who gives us much good advice; Pam - who leads walks and brings ideas to our meetings; Brian - a loyal helper and link to LA21; Malcolm - our newest member, who works so hard at path maintenance sessions and supports our work in a number of ways with his local knowledge; and Chris Hogarth, who happily leads walks for us. We are sorry to lose Betty from the committee as she has been so helpful in leading walks, identifying walking routes and helping with path maintenance.

I hope we can encourage more people to come and walk with us in and around Wellington. That is my abiding goal - more people walking and more people coming to Wellington.

Eve Clevenger