

Wellington Walkers are Welcome

Seventh AGM 2nd July 2017

Secretary's report

Committee/Membership Matters:

Since the last AGM the management committee has met 7 times for full meetings and twice for special no reports meetings ; a Festival planning subcommittee met twice. The (virtual) minute book is available for inspection.

Tricia Peak resigned from the committee in March and Malcolm Skelton was co-opted in April.

We now have 90 members, including 14 patrons. Of these 28 are from Wellington itself, 61 total from Wellington, local villages and adjacent parts of Telford, and 86 total from all of Telford and local villages (3 of the remaining 4 are from Shropshire) .

Since last October I have been using MailChimp for the twice monthly emails which eases my task considerably. I try to include news items as well as details of both our and the local Ramblers' walk. I have sub lists for patrons, for members and for committee/helpers (there are 20 on this latter list).

A reminder: We are still members of the Ramblers Worldwide Holidays Walking Partnership scheme and have now finally received some money when one of our number went on one of their holidays and nominated us .

Other Matters:

Over the past 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 :

Held our fifth walking festival in September 2016.

Arranged our sixth walking festival which will be held in September 2017.

Run 2 regular walks each month. These are on the first and third Sundays.

Contributed 2 walks to the inaugural Wellington April Festival.

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

Sent the occasional tweet as [@WellingtonWaW1](https://twitter.com/WellingtonWaW1)

Maintained links with Walkabout Wrekin and the Telford and East Shropshire Ramblers group. We have run joint stalls with both Walkabout Wrekin and LA21 at local events and have held joint path clearing sessions with T & ES Ramblers.

Developed 2 leaflets of walks; one to the North of the town and one from Wrockwardine . These are part of a longer term aim to cover all directions, called Wellington 360.

Thanks to Bob (our Footpath Secretary) we have continued to be very active on the footpath front this year, see more details in his report.

Contributed to meetings of various bodies concerned with walking in Telford and Shropshire

Secured a grant from the Clinical Commissioning Group to further our work in trying to facilitate exercise for the population of Telford.

Arranged for a walking information board at the station and obtained publicity for this.

Submitted our annual report and received good feedback.

I have again acted as a Walkers are Welcome monitor, this year appraising the annual reports of the other Shropshire WaW towns.

The next year:

In the immediate future we have the Walking Festival to publicise and run, including running stalls at Lions Day on Wheels (July 9th), Morrison's (August 11th) and the PRH (August 22nd).

The ex-coal site is currently a focus of activity in clearing and way marking and we may write an Eastern or South Eastern part of Wellington 360.

We will also send at least one delegate to the National Get-Together in Yorkshire in October.

I still feel that publicity is our weakest area , we would dearly like someone to volunteer to help us with this. Bob and, to a lesser extent, me, are de facto fulfilling this role but we would like to be able to concentrate on other things.