



WALKERS ARE WELCOME

October plans well advanced

This year's WaW conference takes place in Church Stretton in the heart of the Shropshire Hills on Sunday Oct 18th (optional activities also Sat 17th). "We're close to finalising the programme, which we think will have plenty to interest everyone," says organiser John Woolmer. All welcome. (The 2010 conference will take place for the first time in Scotland.)

Two more banners

The WaW Towns Network committee has invested in two new 3m x 1m banners, available free for WaW towns to borrow (you pay carriage). To book the English language banners contact Nigel Botting, nigelbotting@btinternet.com. For the new Welsh bilingual banner, contact malcolmray@supanet.com

WaW in the press

More national publicity for the Walkers are Welcome scheme came in early April, in the form of a mention in the travel pages of the Observer.

Sign up!

Towns and villages interested in becoming WaW communities need to register as associate members (£20). Full details on the website, www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk.

Network grows: now we're 21

Six more towns and villages have become Walkers are Welcome communities in the past two months, and at least another ten are poised to apply for WaW status shortly.

"We're experiencing quite astonishing levels of interest in the scheme, from all parts of the UK," says Malcolm Wilkinson, chair of the Network. "It seems as though this is an idea whose time really has come."

The neighbouring north Wales towns of [Penmaenmawr](#) and [Llanfairfechan](#) both were given WaW status at the March committee meeting, together with [Haltwhistle](#) in the Tyne valley. Since then, they have been joined by [Kirkby Stephen](#) (Cumbria's first WaW town), Deal in Kent and another north Wales town, Holywell.

Among towns which have recently joined as Associate Members – identifying themselves as prospective WaW communities – are Winchcombe, St Bees, Llandysul & Pont Tyweli, Pickering, Dolwyddelan, and Clun. Tomintoul in the Scottish Highlands is also working hard to become Scotland's third WaW community.

Mentoring scheme under way

Towns and villages thinking of working for WaW status can now have access to a mentor, a member of the WaW committee from a town which has already successfully been given the status. Contact the WaW national secretary Andrew Bibby (01422 844026) for details of who is the mentor for your region of the country.

Plenty happening in WaW towns

May and June promise to be a hectic period, with several WaW towns planning events and festivals. [Pentrefoelas's](#) first walking festival took place over the May Day bank holiday, with [Prestatyn's](#) in mid-May and [Bishop's Castle](#) and [Church Stretton](#) running festivals in June. [Mytholmroyd](#) is launching an innovative walk@work initiative in May, whilst [Kilsyth](#) has a special WaW launch event in June. Full details of these and other events are on the WaW website.

Meanwhile [Otley](#) has used its WaW status to get support for a new waymarked trail, the Six Dales Trail, opening next year.

<http://www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk>

Hebden Bridge – Moffat – Prestatyn – Mytholmroyd – Church Stretton – Bishop's Castle – Richmond Market Weighton - Kilsyth - Cilgerran – Pentrefoelas – Otley - Rhuddlan – Tadcaster – Martley – Deal Penmaenmawr – Haltwhistle – Llanfairfechan – Holywell – Kirkby Stephen – *you next?*