



# WALKERS ARE WELCOME

## Network now tops 30-mark

Ten more towns have met the criteria to become Walkers are Welcome communities in the last three months, taking the total to 31.

The towns joining are Malvern, Ilkley, Kingsbridge, Llangollen, Leyburn, Pickering, Llandrindod Wells, Winchcombe, Ross-on-Wye and Llandysul & Pont Tyweli. At the same time, a steady stream of enquiries are arriving from other towns interested, many of whom are expected to be at the October conference.

## Launches galore as towns celebrate



Kilsyth (above), the second WaW town in Scotland, celebrated its status at a special event in June, as did the village of Winchcombe in August.

A reminder that three WaW banners are available for towns organising public events. Details on the website.

# See you in the Shropshire hills!

All the arrangements are now in place for a memorable Walkers are Welcome annual conference, being held this year on Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup> in Church Stretton, Shrops.

“We’ve tried to create a real ‘can’t miss’ event, both for existing Walkers are Welcome towns and for the growing number of places interested in joining the network,” says John Woolmer from the Church Stretton organising group. “Last year’s event in Prestatyn proved the value of the annual conference as a place to share inspiration and ideas and we’re aiming for another successful day to help the Walkers are Welcome idea progress.”

The programme includes presentations from outdoor campaigner Kate Ashbrook, *Country Walking’s* Nick Hallissey and leadership specialist Peter Kennedy. Workshops include sessions on running walking festivals, finding funding, and marketing your WaW community. Other sessions will share ideas on how to become a WaW town – and then how to maximise your status to the full.

A short part of the afternoon will be set aside for the AGM. “Our network has almost tripled since last year, so we have to ensure we have robust ways to manage this growth. We’ll be looking for members for the committee, too,” says Malcolm Wilkinson, WaW chair. The conference programme and booking form is on the website [www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk](http://www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk). The booking fee is just £20.

## Web promotes forthcoming events

The Walkers are Welcome website is currently advertising a range of forthcoming events in WaW towns. Ilkley organises its launch event on Sep 20, with Kingsbridge, Ross and Pickering following a fortnight later (all Oct 3-4). Llangollen is organising a special Walking Weekend on Sep 26-27, whilst Hebden Bridge, Moffat and Market Weighton all have forthcoming walking festivals. Keep watching the web for updates.

<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 – Winchcombe – Llandrindod Wells – Pickering – Ross-on-Wye – Ilkley – Llandysul & Pont Tyweli – Malvern – Kingsbridge – Leyburn – Llangollen – *you next?*