

Merry Christmas

Feedback always welcome



# WALKERS ARE WELCOME

Towns and villages with something special to offer all walkers  
[www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk](http://www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk) [secretary@walkersarewelcome.org.uk](mailto:secretary@walkersarewelcome.org.uk)

**Newsletter December 2017**

**Merry Christmas to all Members**

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*Chairman . Sam Phillips, in festive pose*

### **Merry Christmas**

The Chairman - Sam Phillips, Treasurer - Geoff Kitt, Secretary - Ann Sandell and the current national committee - Helen Kenneally, Randal Metzger, Don Davenport, Ken Hawkins and Patron - Kate Ashbrook would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone involved in Walkers are Welcome groups throughout the UK, a very Merry Christmas, whatever you are doing. Hilary Cox from Cromer has just joined us to represent the organisers of the 2018 Get-together.

Randal is arranging a **Northern Regional Get-together** for member towns in Leeds. **SAVE THE DATE Saturday, 24th February** from 11am to 3pm. If you would like to host a regional event in 2018, please let us know.

You will shortly be receiving an email notification from the Webmaster, Rob Talbot inviting you to register for the Members Section on the new **website** under development. You will also be able to complete your town's profile page. This system also allows you to add events and your news. As soon as a number of towns have completed their profiles, the new website will go live.

A little reminder that your **Annual Return** and **subscription** are due in January. You will receive an email and full details between Christmas and New Year. Usually a quiet period between activities to be reflective and complete formalities.

## Nominate your Neighbourhood

In January, the Ramblers will be launching new awards for 'walkable neighbourhoods'. They are looking for neighbourhoods with well-connected networks of walking routes; accessible natural green spaces; and well-designed built infrastructure. If you would like to nominate your 'neighbourhood' (**deadline 2<sup>nd</sup> January**) or for further information, please contact [email](#)



Newly paved footpath as part of the blanket bog restoration on Hartley Fell, Cumbria

### Blanket Bog Restoration

Blanket bog is a unique type of peat habitat, found only in cool wet regions and formed from the end of the last ice age. An extremely important habitat for wildlife. Restoration brings many benefits:

- Increased carbon store to help climate change
- Better water storage for flood prevention
- Homes for wildlife
- Filters water for us to drink

The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty have a new £6 million partnership project launched on 16 October, Pennine PeatLIFE, which will help to fix large swathes of Pennine peatland over the next four years. A leaflet is available '[Peatlands of the North Pennines](#)' which gives further information about peat habitats.

Maintaining and restoring wetlands is now well recognised to bring fantastic benefits. You may be interested in Paludiculture which explores the sustainable and productive use of wetlands rather than the past schemes to drain these habitats for better grazing, [see leaflet](#).



pic. [Kinlochleven Community Trust](#)

### Scotland

'Paths for All have Community Active Travel Grants of up to £3,000 for any constituted community group in Scotland.

The grants aim to make it easier for people to walk and cycle when making short everyday journeys, for example, to the shops, to school, to work or to connect to public transport links.'

The closing date is **12 January 2018**, see [facebook page](#).

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### and Wales

The Open Spaces Society has given a 'Conditional Welcome To Commencement Of Common-Land Provisions In Wales' [see report](#).



YorkshireShepherdess [@AmandaOwen8](#)

The hardest days on the farm can also be the most fulfilling.

When all is safely gathered in,  
Sheep brought down and cows laid in.  
Horses fed, hens on the nest,  
Home fires burning, we are so blessed.

### Sheep worrying update

In response to the November newsletter, Gill Wislocka of St Dogmaels Llandudoch reminds us that "It is too easy to write it off as lone dogs". There are uninformed and very selfish dog owners out there and Gill has sent in some comments for publication:

'Experience here shows that some dog owners seem to think their dogs have a right to 'only having fun' (the excuse offered by two women on holiday who had no understanding of sheep worrying, and a South African Family who just let their Beagle loose to 'have fun' despite being told about the risk of sheep worrying and that the dog could be shot). The husbands response was "no b..... is going to shoot my dog".'

'On another farm two women had five dogs loose among ewes & lambs and not one lead. The dogs were completely out of control chasing the sheep and would not come back to the owners. It was lambing time and the dogs' owners had no understanding of the effect of their dogs behaviour on ewes having still births, abandoning lambs etc The womens' issue was why should their dogs have to be on leads as the dogs were on holiday as well as the owners.'

'This year our Footpaths Group found three dead sheep killed by dogs while we were doing footpath maintenance. We also found nearby a ewe chased into a bog which needed three of us to lift out as she was up to her chest in the mud.'

Hard hitting words to remind all dog owners to KEEP DOGS ON LEADS at all times near any farm animals. Also see our members' [Dog Walking factsheet](#).



### RIP Richard Nicholls - Denby Dale

Richard tragically died on 16th October 2017 following an accident.

Richard Nicholls aged 55 years of Denby Dale, the much loved partner of Diane, dear son of Enid and well loved by Daniel, Christian and Mallory.

'Mr Nicholls founded his bookshop, originally Orchard Bookshop, in 1995. The shop was taken on by Adam Brown in September 2012 before it changed hands back to the original owner. It was renamed JR Nicholls and also sold its own travel guides. Before that, Mr. Nicholls also ran a travel book shop in Penrith, Cumbria. (The Huddersfield Daily Examiner)

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### Members' News

Also see our website [members' news](#) section and [facebook](#)



The BBC Countryfile walk in aid of "Children in Need", held on Sunday 22nd October in **Market Weighton**, is on track to raise over £500 for their annual charity event. 57 walkers, including 10 children and numerous dogs, walked either a 5-mile or 2-mile walk to raise funds for the Children in Need charity. The walks were led by Market Weighton on Walking for health leaders. (above)



Despite the rain, ladies from **Bingley** joined by two ladies from **Baildon** (above) had a great day filming with ITV. The programme, entitled 'Britain's Favourite Walks' will be shown in the spring.

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Thanks to Lorna Shrubsole for the photos of the **Liskeard** group out and about enjoying the Cornish countryside and heritage sites in the colder months. Lorna says "What an opportunity to dig out a bright hat!!"



If you have travelled into **Dursley** recently you may have noticed the latest addition to the Dursley Gateway Signs. The new added sign displays the words 'Dursley Welcomes Walkers' and the WaW logo. A really good promotion for Dursley Walkers are Welcome. Thanks go to the staff at Dursley Town Council for erecting the sign.



There are always some great innovative walking promotions in **Tregaron** and the Cambrian Mountains of Wales. The beginning of December sees the last in the Legends of Wales Walks - the Tregaron Elephant. There's also the Tackle The Turkey Trek Tregaron on Boxing Day and the Siales Pumlumon Fawr Challenge coming in 2018 to name but a few.



Alston Moor, Cumbria



Swannington, Dereham, Norfolk

### [Stuck for a last minute present....](#)

Geocaching Premium Membership [Gift link](#)

Open Spaces Society alternative [Christmas Present](#)

Wainwright Society [Calendar](#)

Walkingworld gift [subscription](#)

Woodland Trust [native tree](#)

National Trail map [prints](#)

**Wishing you a very Happy Christmas,**

[secretary@walkersarewelcome.org.uk](mailto:secretary@walkersarewelcome.org.uk)

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Need to change your Walkers are Welcome contact please [email](#)

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