

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)

**HAPPY NEW YEAR - Newsletter January 2018**

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**Best Film**

**Diwrnod Santes Dwynwen hapus**

**p.s. Northern Get-Together**



### **Meet Ali Allen**

We would like to share the enthusiastic news from Ali who has taken over the helm at **Kington**, Herefordshire.

'It seems to be a familiar theme in Kington, of people randomly arriving here and then never leaving. There is something special about this little border town that draws you in and makes you feel like you've finally come home to where you have always wanted to be. I claim to be one such person. My story takes me from my birth in Hull, to growing up in London, living my adult life in the Rocky Mountains of the USA, finding my way back via the Queen Mary to Southampton and then arriving in Kington. I could have reinvented my life anywhere but have

chosen Kington, or like to think that Kington has chosen me! So I bought a shop (formally Granddad's Shed) and on 15<sup>th</sup> September opened The Walking Hub.

Overwhelming support for The Hub has shown me that I'm not the only one to think that the "Centre for Walking" (referring to the Welcome to Kington signs on entry into town) should have a shop for walkers. Blend that with my love of walking and the local landscape and you have a match made in heaven and hopefully a recipe for success. Just a tiny shop, but perfectly positioned in the centre of town to hopefully welcome walkers, be a knowledgeable resource and provide both locals and visitors with carefully selected outdoor gear. The Hub's aim is promote year round walking for all ages, to encourage Kington's growing identity as a walking town and support its amazing annual Walking Festival – soon to be biannual, with the addition of a Spring Walking Weekend. Further wanting to share my life with walkers I've also opened up a B&B above The Walking Hub providing accommodation specifically for walkers.

If you haven't already (or even if you already have) please stop in and visit The Walking Hub at 26 High Street, Kington; peruse the maps and guidebooks, purchase a pair of lifetime guarantee walking socks, a funky walking stick, technical Nordic poles, or simply just say hi. Muddy boots, dogs, suggestions and comments are welcome.' Kington Walking Hub [website](#).

Our Chairman, Sam Phillips has sent his good wishes to Barnard Ray. "My sincere thanks for all the wonderful work you have done on behalf of WaW in Kington. I shall miss you in the shed in Kington but maybe Ali's walking shop will be a good substitute. She has an excellent foundation to build on. I shall be happy to help if Ali needs it."



## NEW WaW Website

The new website is now live and the final information is being loaded. All members have been sent log-in details and should complete information and their town's profile by 31st January. Any difficulties please contact the Webmaster **Rob Talbot**



**Walking for Health** is part of the Ramblers charity. If you don't already have a health walk group they might be useful in offering free training and resources [see website](#) Other organisations offer similar schemes or you can set this up independently. Also see our Prescription Walks [fact sheet](#).



## Trees

A message from **SayTrees**: "Please make similar poster with some creative text and in your native language...share it with us.... tag it with [#saytrees](#) [#treesprotest](#) ....and we shall share all such posters in every possible corner..... let your voice be heard ...."

The results are in for The **Woodland Trust - Tree of the Year** in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Another feature of this [website](#) is that you can now discover and celebrate your woods with a Find your Local Wood search engine, see if your favourite is listed.

Did you catch **Judy Dench: My Passion for Trees?** So much more than Judy's love of trees with lots of science and certainly worth a [watch](#).

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### **New Year, New Funding**

**The Greggs Foundation** is currently accepting applications from local not-for-profit organisations and schools that have a Greggs shop in their region and need funding for an environmental project that benefits their community. Closing 9th March. [See webpage](#)

Flowers to the People with a **Grow Wild grant**. Local community groups with exciting ideas for projects that bring people together through activities that connect their community and celebrate UK native wildflowers and plants have until mid January to apply for funding for projects starting in March [See webpage](#)

The **Community Shares Booster** programme matches the investment raised through community share issues to increase take-up in areas of disadvantage and in under-represented sectors. The programme reopened in December 2017. [See further details](#) and register an interest.

### **Annual Returns and Subscriptions**

An e-mail reminding members to complete their Annual Return for 2017 and to send in their subscription for 2018 was sent out on 28th December 2017. If you do not recall seeing it, please check your junk mail box. Attached was the Annual Return form, an invoice and remittance advice and the Love your Annual Return factsheet. Congratulations, five Annual Returns were received before January and many more are now flooding in. Remember that formalities should be completed by **31st January 2018**.



#### **Walking Challenges 2018**

The Oswestry Round Challenge 9th June. The OSWESTRY ROUND CHALLENGE is a 33-mile sponsored walking event based on the guide book of the same name. [See website](#).

Wye Valley Challenge 11/12 August 100 km



Sialens Pumlumon Fawr Challenge 2018.

First walk is now full. see other walks to book on [facebook page](#) Have you seen the [very rare Welsh penguin?](#)

The Upper Eden Yomp Mountain Challenge 3rd June. Choice of 23 mile or 11.5 mile routes. Run it if you like, last

Chepstow to Hereford with 50km and 25km options [website information](#)

Don't forget Country Walking are challenging everyone to another #Walk1000 miles again this year. Sign up on the [website](#). Remember to send them your walking festival information.

year's 23 mile record was 2:36:20. [See website](#)

The Baildon Boundary Way Half Marathon Walk Sunday 8th April [see details](#)

The Rambers Big Welsh Walk **Devil's Bridge** 2nd June, further details to follow.

## **Members' News**

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



Top: 400 attended the Christmas Cracker walk at Devil's Bridge. A four mile walk from the village up onto Mynydd Bach. After that it was back to the Hafod hotel for food, fun and the awarding of the distance award hats.

Above: Baz's New Year Revolution "cobweb removal" walk at **Whitchurch**, Shropshire. They found plenty of mud and water followed by an excellent lunch at the Old Town Hall Vaults. Baz is also a new national mentor.

Below: Perfect conditions for **Bingley** walk

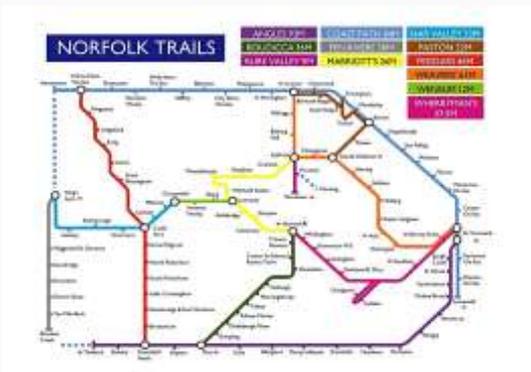
Top: Good turn out with people from all over the country joining the now famous **Tregaron** Turkey Trot on 1st January.

Above: **Horncastle** had a great turn out for their End of the Year Walk. The weather was kind and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Brian Oldham led a 4 mile circular walk from Hurlers Car Park in Minions on 27 December for Liskeard with the added history of 30 stones. See Cornish Times report '[Stones with stories to tell](#)'.

or sledging on 29th December, Five Rise Locks Cafe.

Below: **Marsden**



**Inspiring** underground style map from Norfolk Trails retweeted by **Cromer**. #LoveCromer

Wonderful yarn bombing on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail sent in by **Winchcombe**.

See what your Destination Management Organisation are promoting for 2018 and take part using the recommended hashtag which will be repeated. VisitWales: #YearoftheSea  
Cumbria: #thelacetobe VisitScotland: #ScotSpirit

**Best film** of 2018 giving hope for our children's future [download here](#)

Diwrnod Santes Dwywnwen hapus (happy St Dwynwen's Day) to all our Welsh friends

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

**p.s. Don't forget the Northern Regional Get-Together Saturday 24th February, Leeds  
Please e-mail Randal Metzger to confirm attendance by 15th January.**