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# WALKERS ARE WELCOME

Towns and villages with something special to offer all walkers

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**Newsletter November 2017**

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### **New Headquarters and Logo**

The new Walkers are Welcome CIC headquarters. Well actually, I have just moved my desk upstairs with more room to "swing a cat",if I had one (please don't send cats). **Wow!** Unprecedented enthusiasm for the new logos with so many requests for a copy. We guess that is a success then. Thanks everyone. Full downloads will go on the new website when it is ready but in the meantime, please [e-mail](#). Ann Sandell, Secretary

### **HOT OFF THE PRESS**

Lord Tony Greaves spoke in the Agriculture, Fishing and the Rural Environment debate on 2nd November 2017 – 'taking the opportunity to promote the cause of rural recreation, particularly walking in the countryside – and the contribution this makes to the rural economy'. He mentions **Walkers are Welcome** 10th anniversary, the work of promoting local walking in conjunction with local businesses as highlighted in the national survey and spreading the load of countryside recreation in other than honeypot destinations.

**See the [report](#) of Lord Greaves' speech**



### **10th Anniversary and National Survey**

Above: John Sparshatt and Kate Ashbook pictured in the Grough report '[Survey shows Walkers Are Welcome status is good for towns' health and wealth](#)'.

CampaignerKate blog '[The impact of Walkers Are Welcome](#)'

Sheringham, Norfolk '[Walkers are Welcome towns boost our health and happiness - and the economy](#)'



UKHillwaking.com article '[Walkers Are Welcome' Status Boosts Local Economies](#)'.

Thank you to all members that sent a letter or article to local press, we have seen lots of wonderful press. Not too late to send in your letter template and your triumphs to your local newspapers celebrating the organisation's achievements.



### **Dafydd and the Welsh Logo** (sounds a bit like one of Dafydd's legendary Welsh tales)

And here's Dafydd Wyn Morgan from **Tregaron** appearing on BBC Wales (Heno S4C) chatting about the 2018 Plynlimon Challenge with the Welsh logo. See the interview on [facebook](#): - "Wych! Diolch Dafydd"



### **Cromer 2018 Get-Together**

The national committee were delighted to accept **Cromer's** offer to hold the next Annual Get-together on 12/13th October 2018. "I Do Like to Be Beside the Seaside". **SAVE THE DATE**

And a taster from Cromer, 'Magic in the Air' by Don Davenport.

'On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 there was a walk from Blakeney to Wells next the Sea, along the Coast Path, entitled MARSH MAGIC. The walk went via Morston Quay and Stiffkey (readers may want to Google 'The Vicar of Stiffkey'). Last year we did a similar route, we got some Tibetan ladies to pray to Buddha for fine weather – their prayer was heard – a superb day. Alas the ladies had gone home; the forecast was dire – Westerly gale with rain- the walk was east to west along the marsh, no place for the faint hearted. Being walkers did that deter – time would tell.

We needed divine intervention, thus contacted Stiffkey church on the Friday "Could a group of walkers take shelter to eat their lunch" was the request. "Walkers are welcome" said the Church Warden. In the event, we did not take up their kind offer, a possible haven was stumbled upon – a tiny museum just above Stiffkey Fen. "Could we use the museum as a lunch-stop"? Without a moment's hesitation "Certainly, we have a room that is used for school parties, we will put out tables and chair".

Sunday, the forecast was right! Gale and driving rain, despite the conditions Janice, our bird expert, carried her 'scope plus tripod all the way; stopping to allow people to witness the thousands of visitors going about their daily business. It was **magic!** Even more so when reaching the 'Maritime Heritage Centre'. There were toilets and the means to make tea or coffee. Suffice to say, our short stay was comfortable, and whilst there the wind had eased a little and the rain stopped when we resumed our way to Wells, there to be met by a luxury limousine (well a rather nice coach) to get us back to Blakeney.

37 walked, including **Cromer's** Mayor, our ex-Mayor and Norman Lamb, North Norfolk MP and his wife. and his wife. A vote was taken and carried unanimously, there was "MAGIC in the AIR".

### **The Tree Charter**

As a companion document to the Magna Carta, The **Charter of the Forest** signed in 1217 re-established, for free men, the rights of access to the royal forest that had been eroded by William the Conqueror and his heirs. A number of initiatives have been started to mark the 800 years anniversary.

***The New Tree Charter Launch: November 6th - Lincoln [newsletter](#)***

Sign the Charter with **[The Woodland Trust](#)**

Improve Public Access to Woodland - [The Ramblers petition](#)

### **Sheep Worrying**

Many of you would have been concerned to see the report on a recent BBC Countryfile programme about sheep worrying. Most of us are not only upset by the images of sheep hurt or killed by dogs but also by the thought that a bill could be passed to restrict access on Public Rights of Way to protect livestock. Here's a report on the proposals in the Farmers Guardian '[Changes to Highway Code could reverse sheep worrying trend](#)'.

Angela Smith MP was featured in the programme should you wish to contact her directly see <http://www.angelasmith-mp.org.uk/>

It would appear that experience shows that it is usually a lone rogue dogs that attacks sheep and the advice will always be to keep dogs on a lead in a field or Open Access area where there is livestock.

There is a [Dog Walking factsheet](#) for members.

Interestingly, there has been reports of an escaped [Linx](#) killing sheep in Wales and more sightings of the "Beast of Cumbria" Pantha recently.

On a more serious note, farmers may shoot any dog seen worrying sheep and owners fined up to £1,000 under the two main pieces of legislation, the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 and the Animal Act 1971.

### **Members' News**

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



**Baildon's** latest publication, funded by Baildon Town Council, has just rolled off the press. The book, which has been edited by Peter Kerr, includes 47 colour photos, taken by Peter himself and Ros Crosland, and records the beauty of many locations around Baildon. This book, which reveals some of the less well-known beauty spots as well as the more obvious ones, would make an excellent Christmas stocking-filler.

Thanks to everyone that sent in their recent press reports about the national survey. **Kirkby Stephen, Barnard Castle, Dereham, Wellington, Baildon, Whitchurch.** Keep them coming, links are useful when there are any. Here's [Nether Stowey and Over Stowey](#)

**Keynsham** had a fantastic response for their Countryfile Ramble. They joined forces with many groups around the country to arrange a walk in aid of Children in Need. 106 people turned up, together with children and dogs in almost perfect walking conditions. With a first aider, an official photographer, a walk leader, a back marker and six marshals, the group were very well organised. They were using one of 4 walks devised by the Keynsham & Salford Local History Society along the banks of the River Avon to the 'Lock & Weir' public house where a welcome stop was planned. All went smoothly and it was a very happy band of walkers that arrived at the destination 4 miles and 3.5 hours later. The good news was that we raised £740 for the BBC Children in Need appeal.

One of the local pubs in **Winchcombe** is providing boot covers for walkers. Here's a photo. above. You can buy them in bulk on the net.

Stagecoach South are supporting the launch of two bus walks created by **Whitchurch**, Hampshire. [Find out more.](#)

['Donkeys and alpacas greet walkers on seven-mile mid-Norfolk trek'](#) in **Dereham.**

Jill Kibble, Chair of **Montgomery** "Our aspiration of taking control of local footpaths and bridleways is now beginning to show results. We're already planning another volunteer induction day as several people have approached us who want to help and make a real difference. See [press report](#) about their success.

Thanks to Glyn Evans in **Llandovery** for the Heart of Wales Trail - A Trail in the Making update, see the [facebook page](#)

You might like to vote for **Gillingham's** bid to the Aviva Community Fund for 50 mile circular The White Hart Link walking route. The walk has been devised to take five market towns of North Dorset and the villages between. [Vote here.](#)

Last but certainly not least, in the excitement of the Hebden Bridge Get-Together, we forgot to congratulate **Clare**, Suffolk and **Haxey**, Doncaster who have been newly accredited. **Welcome to the family.**

### **Public Paths publication**

You may be interested in a new book just published by the Open Spaces Society, 'Public Paths' written by Graham Bathe which explores the origins and rights of access to the ancient tracks, droves, bridleways and footpaths which make Britain unique. Beautifully illustrated, this book is available at the OSS [online shop](#).

Just in time for Christmas.

In closing, can I ask you to send in high definition photographs of autumn and winter in the countryside ready for next year's campaigns. People of all ages enjoying a walk are even better. We certainly need to improve the image of winter walking and extend the season for sustainable businesses and employment in rural areas.

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