

Let's ignore the terror and election for now and share in the peace  
of walking in our beautiful countryside

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We love hearing from you



# 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 June 2017

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Walkers are Welcome [@WalkersWelcome](#) 26/05/2017

The weather this BH wkend looks great! Check out a local [@WalkersrWelcome](#) town for great walks & welcoming people. <https://walkersarewelcome.org.uk/waw-towns/>  
(Thanks to Ruth Coulthard for the tweet and a lovely colourful photo.)

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### National Survey

The request and link to the national survey was sent out on Friday 26th May and we are asking you to complete this questionnaire by the **end of June**. This information is being collated so that we can highlight the achievements of Walkers are Welcome as we celebrate our tenth anniversary. We must extend our apologies for the error in question 25 which does not allow you to tick all the relevant answers. Please use the 'other' box that has been added to alleviate the problem.

**Thank you so much to all those that have already taken part.**

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### The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Get-Together In the Heart of the Pennines Hebden Bridge, Todmorden and Mytholmroyd

Well folks, only 4 months to go before our AGM in the glorious heart of the Pennines. Remember we have a week of walks to offer you and we have been busily training our walk leaders in first aid and safe walk leading. Funded through Pennine Prospects who organise our Walk and Ride festival in September, we have been attending a whole day of training - walk leading in the morning and first aid in the afternoon. The first aid training will ensure that our walk leaders will be qualified to help if there are any safety or health issues on our walks. Our training is being conducted by Amy Gault at [SPLAT Training](#) What's more! We were all given a goody bag comprising a map case, whistle, space blanket and small first aid kit. So --- we are well prepared for you all. [Further information](#)

**Book early - Heart of the Pennines group**



The Chepstow square represents historic aspects of Chepstow as well as its importance as a town with wonderful walking opportunities. Chepstow has a spectacular Norman castle started in 1067 towering on cliffs above the River Wye. Here the tidal range can be almost 41 feet, the second highest in the world.....

### WaW Wall Hanging

A message from Helen Kenneally, national committee member from Chepstow: 'Recently the folder which accompanied the WaW Wall Hanging on its travels has gone missing. This is not a catastrophe as the information inside is on my computer and it gives us an opportunity to make a more comprehensive folder.'

When we received the squares we had contact details from the senders however, this was a while ago now and because they were not thought to be of use in the future, they were deleted. You will appreciate that the squares are little works of art and it would be good to know what inspired that creativity especially as it means something special in the locality from which it was sent. Others around the UK would, I think, be interested to learn the inspiration for the artwork.

All that will be needed from each contributor is a one-sided A4 sheet of information. In the new folder there will be a copy of the town's square in a polypocket and on the reverse will be the A4 sheet of information and inspiration to accompany it. The folder will be presented in this way so as it will be easy to add to it over the years.'

For those who would still like to submit a panel, the opportunity is still open and we have a beautiful lasting representation of all of our towns and villages who strive to put their locality on the map through a love of walking. For details of how you can join please see the website entry '[Embroider a Quilt](#)'. For information on borrowing the wall hanging for display in your town see the website [resources page](#).

**Please address all queries and send your information to [Helen](#).**

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## Local Plans

We were privileged to be sent a copy of the Bollington Tourism Plan and we know that many of you have been involved in local plans and neighbourhood plans in recent years.

A Tourism Plan can be very useful tool in identifying strengths and weaknesses plus an overall vision for the future rather than a few hit and miss actions that do not have an eye on the bigger picture. WaW groups can of course instigate their own plan or better still be involved in a multi-partnership exercise that brings together, councils, national parks, trusts and business interests. If everyone commits to a plan it is so much easier to action and attract suitable funding.

So where do you start? A realistic assessment of the town's strengths and weaknesses will give you an idea of where you are succeeding and where there are areas that could be improved. You might undertake a visitor or business survey to back up some of the information and of course, don't forget the residents views. What are your problems and what could be done to address them.

- Is there a grotty area of town that could be tidied up, flowers planted or the area obscured with boarding with pretty pictures and welcoming signs.
- Empty shops used for pop-up shops, exhibitions or window stickers or displays.
- Is there a great viewpoint that could be highlighted adding interpretation.
- Do you need a new town leaflet?
- Short of accommodation, is there a suitable site for camping or the Caravan Club to stop?
- Could you create a temporary summer activity, trail in a wood, art or crafts exhibition. etc.
- Do you have an information point or Tourist Information Centre?
- Are all the cafes closed on the same day?
- Think about open days for special buildings.

- Novelty markets.
- Are the bus timings right?
- Does the town need an image or strap line and everyone concentrating on the same message.
- Remember "out of season" events and attractions to extend the season.

Don't forget that walkers don't just walk on your beautifully maintained paths. Why would they come to your town and not one of the thousands of other destinations that might be prettier or offer more activities?

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## Web and Story Maps

Jonathan Gatward, Director of [InTouch GIS Services Ltd](#) has been in touch about their Web and Story Maps. This company are now offering several interactive web based products that bring spatial information to life. There are of course lots of applications but here are some samples to inspire.

[Interactive](#) [Map](#)

[A](#) [Photo](#) [Tour](#) [of](#) [Manchester](#)

[A travelogue through France](#)

Prices start from £250, suitably inspired contact [Jonathan](#) for further information.

AN APPEAL FROM MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAMS

FELL WALKERS! READ THIS - and save us the trouble ....

I came across some advice in a booklet dated 1976 and whilst most of the information is still very relevant today, much of the details seems to have an air of the 1930's.

'Wear boots with nails or moulded rubber soles not shoes, plimsolls or gum-boots. Take a woolen cap and a spare jersey; it's always colder on the tops. Carry an ice axe and survival bag.'

'ENJOY YOURSELVES, BUT DON'T PLAY THE FOOL'

## Members' News

See also the website [news section](#)

**Ross-on-Wye** recently organised a programme of led walks for members of the **Henley-on-Thames** and Goring-on-Thames Ramblers. 27 members stayed near Ross and the Ross WaW Group arranged a programme of walks every day from Monday to Friday. The walks ranged from a gentle walk through the back lanes and alleyways of Ross, with anecdotes at various points to a good leg-stretcher of 10 miles in the area of Sollarshope and Marcle Ridge. The Ross Group enjoys helping visiting groups and we invite groups to contact us if they would like help in planning a programme in the Wye Valley.

What have you been saying on twitter in May? Here's a sample:



[@ShotleyPier](#) Thrilled to be part of a [@WalkersrWelcome](#) village as launched yesterday.



[Melrose Paths @MelrosePaths](#) Nice day for [#Melrose #walkit](#). Talk about coffee morning on 2 June to raise funds for Melrose Path Group [@WalkersrWelcome @EildonRamblers](#)



[@ThisisDurham](#) Explore Barnard Castle, Durham's first official Walkers are welcome Town during [#NationalWalkingMonth](#) <http://www.thisis>



[@normanlamb](#) Meeting 'Walkers are Welcome' as they arrive in Sheringham. Part of Crab & Lobster Festival! Beautiful day for walk!

[@DiscoverDenbs](#) Did you know Prestatyn was the first town in Wales to achieve Walkers are Welcome status? [#NationalWalkingMonth](#) [@WalkersrWelcome](#)

[@BingleyWaW](#) Listen to Richard Freeman from Baildon Walkers are Welcome talking about the Welcome Way on [@bcbradio](#) - Start 9:10 <http://podcasts>



[@AnnSandell](#) Great day planting boots ready for the summer Walkers are Welcome [#kirkbystephen](#)



[@Marsden\\_WAW](#): Hello from Marsden WalkersAreWelcome - most of our activity is on Facebook - please do say hello! <https://www.facebook.....>

[@NorfolkAONB](#) [#walkthismay](#) [#outstandinghour](#) discover the warm welcome from Walk Cromer: Walkers are Welcome - [walkcromer.co.uk](http://walkcromer.co.uk)

[@KeynshamCouncil](#) Join Keynsham Walkers Are Welcome for the Chew River Trail Walk (part of the Festival of Nature) on Saturday 17th...

[@forgeurbanR](#) Working in partnership - Walkers Are Welcome and Forge Wellington [@ShropshireStar](#) <https://tweetdeck>.  
[@LeominsterFest](#) [@WalkersWelcome](#)  
Leominster Walking Festival 3 - 10 Jun Details from [@Leominstertic](#) <https://twitter>.



[@destdover](#) Taking part in [#NationalWalkingMonth](#)? Walk... no further than [#Dover](#) [#walkersarewelcome](#) stunning walking routes



We don't usually advertise events here but loved this from Neil Moore posting in **Whitchurch** Walkers Glow-worm Hunt hosted by the Hodnet Footpath Group, 30 June at 22:00 meeting at The Old Railway Line, Hodnet

[@Walkboa](#) BoAWaW Tuesday May 30 walk reminder - <http://mailchi.mp/78e6bcb863c8>  
[@WalkersWelcome](#) Learn about map reading with Caistor Walkers are Welcome this Sunday - booking required... [ow.ly/mx4O30bsnRu](http://ow.ly/mx4O30bsnRu)



[@SunflowersBnB](#) Walking on the [#stourvalleyway](#) with Peggy - happy weekend everyone! [#walkersarewelcome](#) [#dogfriendly](#) [#dorset](#) [#bedandbreakfast](#) [#uksmallbiz](#)

10 things you might not know about swifts from the RSPB including listening out for their call and submitting your sightings - [link](#)

Take a spare jersey,

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



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