

Feedback always welcome



WALKERS ARE WELCOME

Towns and villages with something special to offer all walkers

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Newsletter March 2017 - Spring is in the air

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Family

We have a new message for members. **We are all family, together we are stronger**, perhaps this sounds familiar but in the case of Walkers are Welcome sharing best practice, ideas and advice as well as visiting each other and keeping in touch with other towns, your mentors and the national committee always helps to support and inspire each other.

We are proposing that there will be a year of regional Get-Togethers in 2018 with some limited funding to help towns to come together for one-day events. You write the agenda and it could be something total different. Please get in touch if you are at all interested.

Don't forget the 2017 Get-Together celebrating 10 years of WaW, 14th and 15th October in the Heart of the Pennines, where it all began. Have you seen the Hebden Bridge Hostel very special offer? Information, booking forms and a video are [now online](#).

Website

The newly revamped national website is underway. We have taken on board your suggestions made at the Boroughbridge regional get-together and the Lincolnshire website workshops. The new site will be public facing to encourage visitors to our towns with a separate Membership Area. Each town will be given the opportunity to log-in and complete details of events and news and each member will have their own page to publicise their town. We hope that once it is launched you will all help to continually promote the national website for our mutual benefit.

Publicity Guidelines

It is always important for us all to give a positive message about WaW and with this in mind we have produced some [Publicity Guidelines](#). You can also download 'PR and Marketing' and 'Publicity Tips' from the [fact sheets](#).

National Committee

Chris Prescott has left the committee, we must thank him for his years of service to Walkers are Welcome, nationally and regionally. Chris will however continue to be involved with **Stocksbridge** and **Bradfield**. We will miss you Chris.

Randal Metzger from Otley has rejoined the national committee. Randal was involved a couple of years ago and has returned. Welcome back Randal.

If anyone in our member towns is at all interested in joining the national committee in any capacity or none, all are very welcome. Alternatively if you would like to make comments, observations or have new ideas, we always love hearing from you.

Access Means Access

So Article 50 has been triggered and the "defining moment for the UK" as Brexit comes a little nearer reality. We are reminded that the Common Agricultural Policy will cease to exist and new terms and conditions will be put in place that may make or break rural communities and our environment.

Our Patron Kate Ashbrook wrote in October in her capacity as General Secretary of the Outside Spaces Society:

'Whatever we may feel about leaving the EU it does provide a chance to rethink our agricultural-support systems, and to devise a scheme which favours public access.

Lord Gardiner, in his reply to our letter ['PM Back From Alpine Hike To Walkers Warning'](#) to the Prime Minister, said: 'We will be looking to develop a new approach to supporting agriculture and protecting our precious countryside including issues around cross compliance on rights of way'. We want to help him.'...[read more..](#)

If 'Brexit means Brexit', Prime Minister, **'Access means Access.'**



*Top left: Another week, another new stile fitted by **Whitchurch** Walkers. This one between Brown Moss and the car auction at Prees Heath.*

*Top right: **Tregaron** Walking Club receiving training for Adopt a path scheme with Osian Jones from Cyngor Sir Cerebigion.*

*Bottom left: New flagged footpath beyond Nine Standards, **Kirkby Stephen**, restoring the peat and keeping walkers out of the bog.*

Bottom right: A joint Burley and Otley Walkers are Welcome working party installed three bridges near Horncliffe Well on Burley Moor.

So how is the Public Rights of Way situation in your area?

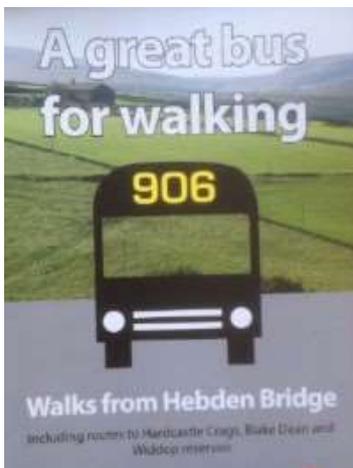
Why not drop us a line to let us know of your successes and challenges.

No digging!

No digging in Winchcombe - Voluntary Wardens in Gloucestershire have been told that they are not allowed to dig a hole unless Amey come out and survey the area for underground services. The new rule follows a tragic accident when a contractor hit an electricity cable under a road with a power tool. The rule even applies to replacing a post in the same hole. The good news is the rule that once surveyed, the work must be done within 24 hours, has been relaxed to 21 days. **Have any other counties been affected by this?**

Kirkby Stephen is still waiting for Cumbria County Council to repair flood damage outstanding from December 2015. The funding has been arranged through the EU and work now promised for this summer. **Do you have flood damage outstanding?**

North Yorkshire County Council are consulting on a proposal to change the way they prioritise management and maintenance of public rights of way within North Yorkshire, excluding those managed on our behalf by The North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. They say that because they have cut their budget by 35% in recent years they are now looking at ways to continue managing the public rights of way network with less money. **Dangerous precedent or inevitable in the light of government cuts to council spending?** [See the consultation.](#)



Buses

WaW members are required to '**Show how the use of public transport will be encouraged**'. You tell us how you are adding public transport information to your websites, publications and displays. There are linear walks using a bus route and bus walk publications. Some towns are lobbying for better bus services and some individuals have joined community transport schemes particularly where there are no other services. With a little imagination one of your group might be able to do a little more.

"Step aboard our weekend Shuttle Buses to enjoy easy access into the hills for walking, sightseeing, pub lunches, picnics and more..." [Shropshire Hills](#)

The Campaign for Better Transport advise that '**Buses are in Crisis**' and have produced a new study based on Freedom of Information requests to all 110 local transport authorities across England and Wales. Many councils have cut subsidised rural routes leaving our communities cut off and walkers stranded. Read the [research results](#).

Useful Information

Husband and wife team, Richard and Claire at [iFootpath](#) have a walking guide creation service using iOS and Android apps. If anyone is interested all they need to do is drop Richard an [email](#) and they will put together some further information and a proposal, etc.

Sikana have produced 50 completely FREE videos on how to hike well and safely. Starting from the basics of navigation, this hiking program will teach you how to use a map and a compass to get your bearings to learning how to plan your trek. There is even preparing your feet. These videos may be useful for your group, to add to your website and to use as best practice. Just download or watch what you need from their [website](#).

[Members' News](#)

Also see our website [members' news](#) and [Walking Festivals](#).

If you are one of the last few stragglers that hasn't completed your Annual Return or sent in your subs payment - shame on you - you must know that it is now two months overdue.

Cromer joined with litter pickers nationwide for their [Spring Litter Pick](#) to clear up the mess that passers-by un/intentionally leave behind. There were six litter teams out over a weekend. One team had eight bags full, plus enough fixtures and fittings to make several scooters. Good effort.

Meanwhile Dawdles walkers in **Kirkby Stephen** took part in the [Great British Spring Clean](#), this year's Keep Britain Tidy campaign, collecting six bags from lanes in one hour, all neat and tidy ready for visitors.

Shotley in Suffolk and **Spilsby and Hundleby** in Lincolnshire became accredited members in March, good luck and congratulations to them both. See the [New Members section](#) for additional information about these new WaW destinations.

Dover Kent had a fantastic launch event on 1st February, lots of tweets in celebration.

And then there is **Forres**, Scotland with a **FREE** wee [weekend walking festival](#) from Friday 31 March to Sunday 2 April, 2017.

Keiran Sandwell found a warm welcome in **Cromer**. "He is walking 5000 miles round the coast of Britain to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation. It will take him nearly a year to complete the walk... all powered by his second heart, sturdy legs & great determination. Representatives from British Heart Foundation, The Town Council and MarGins joined us, and we added some funds to his donations target." See their [facebook](#) for photos.

Market Weighton have a new walk linking Holme on Spalding Moor & Market Weighton. This is a linear walk of 6.6 miles and was walked for the first time on 9th February. David Battams thought it may be of interest for WaW "as you can see we are trying to do our bit, linking together our Town council area and that of a Parish council of a neighbouring village." Both of the locations used to be linked together over 50 years ago by the railway.

Cate Bolsover in **Trefriw** Conwy Valley, tells us about their "new Trefriw Legends trail, which has been created by our members here in Trefriw in celebration of Wales' Year of Legends". The new leaflet will be available at [Trefriw Walking Festival in May](#) and there will also be a Legends quiz to complete,

We so love hearing your news, don't forget [twitter](#) and [facebook](#). and stay in touch.



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