

## Central Shropshire Walking Forum

### Notes of Meeting

1:30pm, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Mar 2014

Bridgnorth Room, Shirehall, Shrewsbury

#### Attendees:

Mick Dunn, Outdoor Recreation [mick.dunn@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:mick.dunn@shropshire.gov.uk)  
 Jim Stabler, Outdoor Recreation [jim.stabler@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:jim.stabler@shropshire.gov.uk)  
 David Hardwick, Outdoor Recreation [david.harwick@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:david.harwick@shropshire.gov.uk)  
 Bill Hodges, Shrewsbury Ramblers [vibill@phonecoop.coop](mailto:vibill@phonecoop.coop)  
 Trevor Allison, Ramblers [eta-06@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:eta-06@tiscali.co.uk)  
 John Newnham, Shrewsbury Ramblers [john.newnham@btinternet.com](mailto:john.newnham@btinternet.com)  
 Hilary Proctor, Shrewsbury Ramblers P3 [hilandsteve@gmail.com](mailto:hilandsteve@gmail.com)  
 Steve Lowe, Shrewsbury Ramblers P3 [hilandsteve@gmail.com](mailto:hilandsteve@gmail.com)  
 Bob Coalbran, Wellington Walkers are Welcome [bywrekin.bob@btinternet.com](mailto:bywrekin.bob@btinternet.com)  
 Dick Bailey, Much Wenlock WaW & Walking for Health [gdickson.bailey@virgin.net](mailto:gdickson.bailey@virgin.net)  
 David Morgan David Morgan, Longden P3 [davidmorgan.fr1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:davidmorgan.fr1@hotmail.co.uk)  
 Brian Dale Patteson, Shrewsbury Ramblers [rosanbrian@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosanbrian@yahoo.co.uk)  
 Barbara Martin, Pontesbury Walking for Health [b.martin1959@btinternet.com](mailto:b.martin1959@btinternet.com)  
 Geoff Sproson, Marches LDWA & Stiperstones Inn [marches@sproson.com](mailto:marches@sproson.com)

#### Apologies:

Rebecca Gutierrez, Telford & Wrekin [Rebecca.Gutierrez@telford.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Gutierrez@telford.gov.uk)  
 Tim Parker  
 Mike Brooks  
 Susan Daykin

#### 1. **Welcome & Introductions**

Jim Stabler opened the meeting and thanked all those who were able to attend.

#### 2. **Feedback from Previous meeting**

- a. Inaccuracy in previous notes: John Newnham pointed out that Phil Barnes and not Phil Burns had replaced Bill Hodges as footpaths secretary. Phil has been added to the mailing list and will be invited to the next meeting.
- b. Fault reporting feedback: Mick Dunn explained to the group that it is not current practice to inform customers when work has been completed on the ROW network unless they have specifically requested this.
- c. Cycling on ROW: Mick Dunn informed the forum that he had spoken to the National Trust and Forestry Commission about the issues raised at the previous meeting about cycling on ROWs. Both the National Trust and Forestry Commission endeavour to ensure that cyclists behave responsibly. There is guidance on their websites and site noticeboards.

#### 3. **Group Updates**

Attendees were asked to give a brief update on current activity:

*David Morgan – Longden P3*

- a. The P3 group have been surveying routes and have no major issues to report.

b. David is trying to identify funding for an information panel with walking routes for Lyth Hill upper car park. (Jim Stabler said that he could possibly help out with funding)

Action- David is requested to liaise with Jim Stabler reference design and costs

*Barbara Martin – Pontesbury Walking for Health*

Barbara informed the forum that walking for health in Pontesbury is going really well with 40+ walkers attending their Friday walks.

*Trevor Allison - Ramblers*

Trevor's project has now passed the 4400km mark and he is hoping to finish Westbury parish in the near future.

*Bill Hodges – Shrewsbury Ramblers*

- a. There are 3 areas of the Shrewsbury and Atcham left to Survey.
- b. Bill will be promoting Rail Rambles which are walks from railway stations in Wales and the border counties [www.railrambles.com](http://www.railrambles.com)

*John Newnham – Shrewsbury Ramblers*

- a. Shrewsbury Ramblers have been nominated for a president's award for team achievement for the production of the very successful guidebook "20 walks in and around Shrewsbury" [www.shrewsburyramblers.org.uk](http://www.shrewsburyramblers.org.uk)
- b. Shrewsbury Ramblers walked to Sharpstone Quarry to mark the official instillation of the bench and commemorative plaque the group had paid for.
- c. Shrewsbury Ramblers now have a regular short walk (Thursday mornings) as part of their walk programme.
- d. Map Reading – Shrewsbury Ramblers would like Mick Dunn to run a basic map reading course for the group.

Action- Mick Dunn to organise basic map reading course for Shrewsbury Ramblers

- e. Shrewsbury Ramblers will be leading a walk entitled "Boots blessed with Gold" on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2014. This is a 2.5 mile walk to commemorate Wilfred Owen's life in Shrewsbury. This walk features in the Shrewsbury Ramblers' Group recently published '20 Walks in and around Shrewsbury'. A commemorative panel will be inaugurated. Starting at 10 am from the Abbey Foregate car park (opposite Shrewsbury Abbey).

*Brian Dale Patteson – Shrewsbury Ramblers*

U3A continue to expand its walking offer.

*Bob Coalbran – Wellington Walkers are Welcome & Walk about Wrekin*

- a. Walk about Wrekin has produced a new health walks programme [www.walkaboutwrekin.org.uk](http://www.walkaboutwrekin.org.uk)
- b. Walk about Wrekin will be having a new series of 'fresh air' walks focusing on people with dementia.
- c. The Wellington Walking Festival 2014 will take place from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 [www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/Festival.html](http://www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/Festival.html)
- d. Wellington Walkers are Welcome are hosting a 'Spring Gathering' of Walkers are Welcome groups and prospective groups at the Buckatree Hotel on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

*Dick Bailey – Much Wenlock Walkers are Welcome and Walking for Health*

- a. The Much Wenlock WfH group continues to do well with good numbers over the winter period.
- b. The Wenlock Walking weekend will take place in September 2014 date tbc
- c. 2 walks will be carried out during the Much Wenlock Christmas Fayre and the Much Wenlock Festival  
[www.wenlockchristmasfayre.org.uk](http://www.wenlockchristmasfayre.org.uk)  
[www.muchwenlockfestival.co.uk](http://www.muchwenlockfestival.co.uk)

*Geoff Sproson - Marches LDWA & Stiperstones Inn*

- a. Walks from the Stiperstones Inn are now displayed on the wall outside the pub.
- b. Hopefully there is enough interest to start a P3 group in Stiperstones.

Action – David Hardwick to follow up with Geoff

- c. The LDWA South Shropshire Circular walk went very well.
- d. Would like to dedicate a walk in memory of local post lady Elsie Rowson.  
Action – Mick Dunn to speak to Geoff about assisting with walk guide and way marking

- e. Busy planning the Janet's Jubilee Jaunt event on Sat 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014

[www.marchesgroupldwa.eu/challenge.htm](http://www.marchesgroupldwa.eu/challenge.htm)

- f. Geoff also updated the group on future LDWA events
  - i. WOW 2014 Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July [www.marchesgroupldwa.eu/wow/index.html](http://www.marchesgroupldwa.eu/wow/index.html)
  - ii. Wistanstow Walk 14<sup>th</sup> Sep 2014
  - iii. LDWA social walks [www.marchesgroupldwa.eu/social\\_walks.htm](http://www.marchesgroupldwa.eu/social_walks.htm)

*Hilary Proctor/ Steve Lowe – Shrewsbury Ramblers P3*

Shrewsbury Ramblers P3 group have been very busy around the Bicton Area and have also been involved in work in the Darnford Valley. Have been very lucky so far with the weather!

*David Hardwick*

- a. The weather has been very challenging recently which has delayed or slowed down some programmed works.
- b. Helen Beresford has been appointed as Shropshire Outdoors Development Officer and will be responsible for establishing new P3 groups and volunteer development.
- c. Brush Cutter training will be taking place soon.
- d. Emergency first aid course taking place on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- e. Volunteer Celebration event will be taking place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2014 in the Pontesbury/Minsterly area. Details TBC

#### **4. Get Walking Week**

Get walking week is the Ramblers National Short Walks festival and will take place between the 3<sup>rd</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Shrewsbury Ramblers and Walking for Health will be leading extra walks during Get Walking Week.

Action – Mick Dunn to produce a Get Walking Week poster for the Shrewsbury walks

#### **5. Outdoor Recreation Updates**

Jim Stabler updated the forum on the following projects:

- a. Outdoor Recreation Survey. Although the survey has not finished yet Jim gave the group an update on how it was progressing. Full details will be available at the next meeting.

- b. Minsterley/Pontesbury market town project. The draft walks booklet is nearly complete. Just waiting for wording and pictures for some walks before printing.
- c. Humphrey Kynaston Way – Work on the new long distance bridleway is progressing well. Most of the route has now been waymarked and the guide is near to completion.
- d. Shropshire's World War 1 Walks. Details of the WW1 walks are attached.

**6. Events/Festivals Mar-July 2014**

- a. Ironbridge Gorge Walking Festival 03<sup>rd</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
[www.visitironbridge.co.uk/walkingfestival](http://www.visitironbridge.co.uk/walkingfestival)
- b. Wellington Walking Festival 16<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2014  
[www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/Festival.html](http://www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/Festival.html)
- d. Church Stretton Walking Festival 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> June 2014  
[www.churchstretton.co.uk/church-stretton-walking-festival](http://www.churchstretton.co.uk/church-stretton-walking-festival)
- e. Bishops Castle Walking Festival 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014  
[www.walkingfestival.co.uk/BCWF/default.aspx](http://www.walkingfestival.co.uk/BCWF/default.aspx)
- f. Wenlock Olympian Walk - 19<sup>th</sup> July 2014  
[www.marchesgroupdwa.eu/wow/index.html](http://www.marchesgroupdwa.eu/wow/index.html)

**7. AOB**

- a. Geoff Sproson – Raised the point of bird trapping, with wire traps, on the Stiperstones.
- b. Jim Stabler – Walkers are Welcome towns are now featured on the Shropshire Walking Website with links to their websites. Jim has funding to produce a WaW booklet featuring all Shropshire's WaW towns.
- c. Trevor Allison – Shuttle Busses are not running from Shrewsbury and have to be picked up from Church Stretton.

**8. Date of next meeting - TBC**

## Shropshire's World War 1 Walks both WW1 funded Project and others

ser	year	area	Topic	Notes	Project walk
	Tue 29 Apr 2014	North	Heritage walk	History walk around Fenns and Whixall Mosses. Meet at Whitchurch Railway Station. Part of Edward German Festival <a href="http://www.edwardgermanfestival.org.uk">www.edwardgermanfestival.org.uk</a>	no
	Wed 30 Apr 2014	North	Heritage Walk	History walk to Prees Heath transit station and military hospital sites. Meet at Whitchurch railway station <a href="http://www.edwardgermanfestival.org.uk">www.edwardgermanfestival.org.uk</a>	no
1	2014  Sat 24 May	Central  Shrewsbury	Boots blessed with gold	A 2.5 mile walk to commemorate Wilfred Owen's life in Shrewsbury. This walk features in the Shrewsbury Ramblers' Group recently published '20 Walks in and around Shrewsbury. A commemorative panel will be inaugurated. Starting at 10 am from the Abbey Foregate car park (opposite Shrewsbury Abbey).  Wilfred Owen House in Monkmoor walk and along the river, based on existing Ramblers walk "walks in and around Shrewsbury" route 2.  Themes - Wilfred Owen's Poetry from line "buttercups on boots" from the poem Spring Offensive  Contacts Wilfred Owen Soc and John Newnham Ramblers.	yes
	14 Jun 2014	South	In Berlin the last hours before the war	Keith Pybus leads a gentle war walk from Aston-on-Clun via Hesterworth to St Mary's, Hopesay. Peopled by the richest cast of characters researched by Sandra Spence. The attaché at our embassy in Berlin, and later a marked man as POW, is buried here. £5 donation to the Hopesay <b><i>A Festival of Commemoration.</i></b>  RV Aston on Clun Village Hall 1 Broome Road Aston-on-Clun Craven Arms Shropshire SY7 8EH. Shropshire Hills AONB Alison Scimia, Administrator: 01588 674080 <a href="mailto:shropshirehillsaonb@shropshire.gov.uk">shropshirehillsaonb@shropshire.gov.uk</a>	no
2	2	South	Preparing for	A walk from the War Memorial Lychgate Halford highlighting the role of the railwaymen to	yes

	and 3 Aug 2014	Craven Arms	War – In the Air and on the Rails	Stokesay via Land of Lost Content [First World War exhibits] and the Hospice Bookshop window display – to Stokesay Church, Shropshire’s Pioneer Aviator, and Old Bill Craven Arms War Memorial. Walks leader Keith Pybus. £3 or £2 for Friends of the Shropshire Hills.  Shropshire Hills AONB Alison Scimia, Administrator: 01588 674080	
3	2014	North	Training for war	Walk from Oswestry to Park Hall via old hill fort. Memorial in park, Oswestry School, trenches on old hill fort. Themes - preparation for war  Contacts - Wilfred Owen Soc, Oswestry School, Park Hall	yes
	6 Sep 2014	Centre	Impact of war on local communities	Walk around Much Wenlock will have a theme of the war’s impact on the local community for those who worked in the quarries, in agriculture and on the railway in 1914 and 1915. It will take in the Lady Forester Hospital, a wartime hospital, the railways and Quarries etc  Part of Much Wenlock Walking Weekend - Contact Dick Bailey	no
4	Sat 20 Sep 2014	South	The Kaiser Gate- crashed my 21 <sup>st</sup>	The Kaiser Gate-crashed my 21 <sup>st</sup> 2/Lt Rouse Boughton’s field diaries are one of the many treasures of Shropshire Archives. On 23 <sup>rd</sup> August it was his 21 <sup>st</sup> birthday. That day, when the massive German onslaught on Mons began, he barely escaped with his life. By kind permission of Mr & Mrs Mark Wiggin, the walk will end at Downton Hall, the family-seat where the young officer’s father had planned a party for several hundred guests.  Shropshire Hills AONB Alison Scimia, Administrator: 01588 674080	yes
	11 Nov 2014	North	????	Oswestry walk to be confirmed	no
5	25 Apr 2015	South Stanton Lacey	Gallipoli Landings	Walk to commemorate William Williams VC born in Stanton Lacy. Walk from Stanton Lacey to Stokesay Court Auxiliary Military Hospital. Ludlow P3 are re-walking the route to Onibury. Theme - Talk about William Williams VC, great loss of life, Stokesay Court as hospital. Read some of thank you letters sent to Stokesay from	yes

				patients. Contact - Keith Pybus	
6	2015	Central	Recruiting/early casualties	Railway station to Cemetery showing plaques for the fallen railway workers to the war graves in the cemetery. First person buried was German POW Contact Railway Soc	yes
7	2015	South	Effects on agriculture	Walk based on Acton Scott	yes
8	2015	North		<b>Suggested Walk needed</b>	<b>yes</b>
9	2016	central Ditton Priors	Battle of Jutland	Tell the story of Sidney Joseph Smallman died when HMS Queen Mary sunk at the battle of Jutland over 1200 dead only 9 survived. There is no memorial here to the man only an entry on the roll of honour in the church Contact local Church	yes
10	2016	South Clee Hills	Conscription starts	Walk on Brown Clee and talk about start of conscription and Tribunals to escape going to war. Many quarry workers exempt as the Dhustone quarried here was used to make roads and railways in Flanders	yes
11	2016	North Fenns Whixall	Rising need for men and mounts	Largest remount centre just north of Whixall used peat as being for the thousands of horses. Tented camp on Fenns Bank for 1000 men longest rifle ranges in UK. Men used to arrive by train from Fenn's bank station and be resupplied by barge on the canal. Contact Natural England Canal Soc	yes
12	2016	South The bog	Somme	Lead mining needed for munitions, new adit dug called the Somme Tunnel. Contacts Shropshire Mines Trust. No response yet may need to contact Simon Cooter of NE	yes
13	2017	Centre	Passchendaele	Katherine Mary Harley died 7 March 1917 of wounds after her hospital in Monastir was shelled awarded Croix de Guerre. Memorial in the old Royal Salop Infirmary, now the parade shopping	yes

				centre, also on roll of honour in St Mary's Church	
14	2017	North		<b>Walk needed</b>	<b>yes</b>
15	2017	Centre		<b>Walk needed</b>	<b>yes</b>
16	2017	South		Possible walk in Church Stretton  Contact Alan Brisbane	yes
17	2018	North  Tern Hill	Formation of RAF	Tern Hill story of formation of RAF from Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air Service  Also tell the story of Major Cuthbert Everard Brisley and visit his grave  Run with help from RAF Shawbury	yes
18	2018	South  Acton Scott	Poppy field and remembrance	Poppy walk at Acton Scott showing effects of war on agriculture. Rationing started  Contact Manage Acton Scott	yes
19	2018	Central	Death of Wilfred Owen	Rea Brook walk taking in Potts Way, site of POW camp, Shrewsbury Abbey with Owen memorial  Contacts: Railway Soc, Abbey Vicar	yes
	???	South	Linley Hall  The Timber Crisis	Linley Hall Justin Coldwell - I have asked Catherine Landles to contact Justin Coldwell as my e-mail or letter failed to generate any response. The idea would be to obtain permission to walk down the oak avenue talking about the timber crisis [there are some anecdotes about this avenue] and then walk up to the tormented wood at the side of the Hall. You have the South needing a walk in 2017 No 16 but should we wait so long once we get the go-ahead? I have enlisted John Tuer or Tom Wall to help with this one.	no
	Sep 2018	Central	Impact of war on local communities	Walk around Much Wenlock will have a theme of the war's impact on the local community telling the story of the Belgian refugees and POWs  Part of Much Wenlock Walking Weekend - Contact Dick Bailey	no
20	2018	??			yes



	2019	Central	Changes that the war brought about	Changes the war made on forests, women, agriculture, domestic service, Spanish Flu. Start of Forestry Commission  Contact Forestry Ranger	yes
	2019	North	On-going casualties	RJAH hospital formation, transfer from to Park Hall Military Hospital in 1919 number and type of injuries  Contact RJAH archives officer	yes
	2019	South Ludlow		Awaiting Derek Beatty's book publishing	yes
	2019	south	Forestry commission walk in Mortimer forest	On 1 September 1919 the Forestry Act came into force. This set up the Forestry Commission and gave it responsibility for woods in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Eight Forestry Commissioners were charged with promoting forestry, developing afforestation, the production of timber, and making grants to private landowners. They met for the first time in November under Chairman Lord Lovat.  The first Commission trees were planted on 8 December 1919 at Eggesford	yes