

NORTH SHROPSHIRE WALK FORUM NOTES FROM MONDAY 28TH APRIL 2014

Present: Trevor Allison (Ramblers), Peter Carr (Ramblers), Tony Eccleston (Wem Walkers), Liz Evans (Walking Co-Ordinator), Ernie Heath (Wem Walkers), Jane Ing (P3 Baschurch and Myddle), Judith and Alan Kershaw (P3 Cheswardine), Ann and Neil Moore (Whitchurch Walkers & P3), Alison Parker (Ramblers), Gerald Moss (Whitchurch Walkers & P3), Mark Cuthbert-Brown (Kinnerley P3), Jim Stabler (Access Development Officer), Barrie Stephens (Walk Leader, Oswestry)

From Last Time

Alison was pleased that the footpath inquiry in Ellesmere had gone well and that no-one had objected to the outcome. Alison and Jane felt there should be a celebratory walk along this footpath with tea afterwards, perhaps in the Boathouse.

Walking for Health

Liz stated that Walking for Health attendance was more or less static in north Shropshire. Many groups are doing well, but it is in the larger towns, ie Oswestry and Market Drayton that it is a real struggle, both to attract walkers and walk leaders. Smaller places where there is a core of people who can spread the word, make chances of success more likely. Liz would be happy to set up a new walking group somewhere if anyone thought there would be enough enthusiasm to keep it going. The new accreditation process has been started. There are no issues with north Shropshire having walks that are too long, ie over 1.5 hours.

Walking Festival

The Whitchurch Walking is happening on Friday 16th to Sunday 18th May. There are long, short and themed walks with evening entertainment. Bookings are coming in, but most walks still have places left. A lot of hard work and planning has gone into this event and hopefully it will be supported. Anyone who wants to sponsor Liz to do the 14 mile circuit of Whitchurch for Macmillan Cancer Support can do so via the Whitchurch Walkers website, where you can also book walks.

Oswestry is not doing a walking festival this year, but 4 x themed walks at regular intervals. The snowdrop walk in February was very successful. The geocaching in April was not attended at all

however. There is a walk to the hill fort on Tuesday 12th August, and a Wilfred Owen themed walk on Tuesday 11th November at 11am.

Walkers are Welcome

There is no further news on Ellesmere pursuing Walkers are Welcome status.

Oswestry Walkers are Welcome is not supported well enough to put on any more events at the moment.

Whitchurch Walkers are Welcome is more active than Oswestry, but still relies more on walkers than local commerce people. Ann and Neil were pleased they had gone to the Wrekin Spring Gathering as they had found Sam Phillips an inspiration.

Jim is going to develop the Walkers are Welcome website page further.

Hadley Farm

There are ongoing issues with maize and 4x4s blocking the footpaths around Hadley Farm and Budney Farm. These have been reported. Jim to discuss issues with Rights of Way Officers.

Footpath query

Mark said he had been told by a landowner that a footpath can expire in 10 years. He was assured this was not the case and Jim will forward official notification to this effect.

Oswald's Trail Update

The 21km route around Oswestry to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Ramblers (last year, but never mind), will be launched on 6th September by Owen Patterson. Peter Carr thought this would also be a good idea to re-launch the Walkers are Welcome in Oswestry. This idea will be taken to the next Destination Development Partnership meeting.

Council matters

Jim outlined the new structure of the outdoor recreation team. (attached).

Walking events out of area

Wednesday 30th April – The role of shelf bank in the 2nd WW and cold war periods. Contact Shaun Burkey on 01691 624448.

Thursday 1st May – Photo Walks, Ketley Community Centre.
Contact <https://enrolonline.wea.org.uk/online/coursesearch.aspx> or
telfordcentre@wea.org.uk or 01952 614451

Sunday 11th May – 9km Clywedog Trail Walk including Plas
Power Woods. Contact Jane Craven on 07798 581064 or
janecraven@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Any other information

- 11th May treasure hunt in aid of Macmillan, contact Liz for details.
- Get walking week – Liz has done a press release for the local papers and included 3 extra short walks that week for Oswestry. The Ramblers are also doing extra walks, please refer to their website for details.
- There are nearly complete 3 new walks around Cheswardine, soon to be published
- The Market Drayton Tern Valley Walks are also ready for publication
- Jane wanted to thank Deb Hughes for securing the future structure of outdoor recreation
- Jim said the ‘probationers’ have been doing good work and it was suggested they do Villa Farm
- Trefonen Hill walking weekend is on the last one in May. Trefonen have just re-worked and published 10 walks in their area.
- The new Whitchurch Walkers book has just been published with thanks to the Ramblers. It costs £5.
- Jim is going to be on Countryfile talking about the Meres and Mosses starfish site.
- The Humphrey Kynaston Way which goes from Carding Mill to Grinshill is due to be launched on 18th May by the High Sheriff.

- The Pilgrimage Way continues to be worked on by people in the Church. It is apparently the near route Henry V took from Shrewsbury to Holywell in 1416 to give thanks for victory at Agincourt the year before.
- WW1 walks continue to be formulated. Keith Pybus has found out about a Major Brisley of the Royal Flying Corps who was based in Tern Hill. He was the 1st RAF person in north Shropshire and is buried in Market Drayton after falling out of a plane whilst doing a barrel roll
- Trevor would like the website to list all the walks available instead of having to find specific ones. Jim to look into this. Trevor is continuing his mission to walk all the footpaths of north Shropshire and is coming to Oswestry soon.