

Minutes 5th Meeting
Southern Walking Forum

Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms
 10am-12noon, Friday 6th September 2013

Present:

Keith Pybus (KP): Chair	Shropshire Way Association
Dick Bailey (DB)	WaW & WfH Much Wenlock
Jim Stabler (JS)	Access Development Officer, Shropshire Council
Norman Goodwin	Ludlow Walks
Rick Summers (RS)	P3 Ludlow & Whitcliffe Common
Marion Law (ML)	Rail Rambles
Michael Holland (MH)	P3 Ludlow
Clare Fildes	AONB
Nick Purnell	Ludlow Library
Steven Levers (SL)	Clun Walking Group
Sue Jones (SJ)	Shropshire Area Ramblers
Val Simpson (VS)	WaW Cleobury Mortimer

Apologies:

Peter James (PJ)	P3 Clun & Ramblers Footpath Secretary
Chris Chillingworth (ChC)	P3 Ludlow
Helen Knight	
Trish Howard (TH)	WfH Church Stretton
Steph Hayes	Shropshire Hills AONB
Pete Carty	NT
Joy Nisbet	South Shropshire Group of the Ramblers
Leanne Jones (LJ)	Shropshire Council
Mike & Pam Beazley	WfH Ludlow
Phil Sams (PS)	Ludlow 21

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record. There were no outstanding actions.

Walk the Page

Nick Purnell from Ludlow Library had limited time. Chairman agreed he should go first. An adult reading group in Ludlow Library had combined reading a book with a walk and discussion. A Sat morning walk, [ideally in an area identified with the book] would discuss the chosen title. This has proved very popular with 30 people registering and about 15 attending each walk. For their next walk local author Paul Binding would be in attendance

ACTION

and his book "After Brock" would be the subject of the walk.

All agreed this was an excellent project which combined love of walking and reading. The two interests were often shared by the same people. As the Ludlow project was running at the capacity of the same title, we should try to expand its use throughout the County.

JS agreed to promote it using the Shropshire Walking facebook site

All were encouraged to see if it would work from their local libraries.

JS
All

New Pentabus Production

The Chair described the latest Pentabus production **IN THIS PLACE** by Lydia Adetunji and Frances Brett. It was "A unique audio theatre experience. Experienced through headphones whilst following a circular walk from the Bog Visitor Centre, this new play immerses you into a world of stories and events connected to the landscape.

A compelling and inspiring experience about what shapes our relationship to where we are." In the Shropshire Hills on Wednesdays and Sundays throughout September. Tickets £6 / £5 To book or for more info visit their website www.pentabus.co.uk. If Pentabus send him details JS will feature on Facebook.

KP

Clun Waterloo-Hurst Footpath Enquiry

In the absence of PJ, KP advised that the enquiry claiming a footpath to The Hurst had been unsuccessful. As feared, the time it had taken to go to enquiry and the attendant loss of witnesses had been decisive. A discussion followed on the length of time it takes to go to enquiry or have problems actioned. JS explained with the cuts expected in manpower this was bound to get worse. Some P3 groups would be willing to do more work on the ground to rectify simple problems if they knew of them. JS agreed to raise this at the next Outdoor Recreation Management meeting.

JS

Some walking groups have a "Snip and Slash" vegetation clearance policy whenever they go on a walk and it was agreed that this should be promoted more. JS agreed to raise this at the LAF and other walking forums.

JS

FORUM TOPIC WORLD WAR 1 WALKS

- **Bishop's Castle** There is a possible association with SW Shropshire Historical & Archaeological Society exhibition due to be held – On-going action.
- **Bucknell** The walk will be associated with the research work of Margaret Hay-Campbell
- **Church Stretton** Gerry Richardson's father was at Gallipoli. Gerry had passed some mementoes to KP.
- **Cleobury Mortimer and the Clee Hills** the Clees Historical Society is undertaking a full survey of all their local War Memorials, a theme is needed for the planned walks. KP would provide some briefing notes on the themes investigated so far:
 - **Railways** there are lots of potential themes on the railways such as the increase in women working on the railways during the war and the exporting by rail of Dhustone from the quarries for military roads.

KP

- **Quarries** there were women working in the Magpie Quarry, and a camp for conscientious objectors. From Derek Beattie "After conscription was brought in the first meeting of the Ludlow Rural District Military Tribunal was held at Ludlow Workhouse to hear appeals against having to serve. Its chairman was Sir William Rouse-Boughton. At that first meeting a local stone company from the Clee Hill area appealed on behalf of 22 of its unmarried workers. The company claimed that of its original 220 employees 97 had already enlisted and their consequent shortage of labour was affecting output at a time when the War Office was demanding that they supply yet more stone for military road building purposes. The company claimed that they had tried to replace them with married men but had failed. It was said that young men were needed at the quarry face because of the dangers they faced. The workers needed to be agile to avoid falling rocks. The appeals were successful in that they were all given four months' exemption with permission to appeal again which they did and were exempted yet again. Deferments of conscription for the male workers [Ludlow Advertiser 4 March 1916].
- KP agreed to ask Alf Jenkins for any more stories.
- **Clun** investigating a walk based on the career of Capt Bruce Bairnsfather [of Old Bill cartoon fame] who lived at Cresswell House in Clun during WW2.
- **Craven Arms** Walk about recruiting and life in the trenches. Walk from war memorial lych gate in Halford (Craven Arms) to 'Old Bill' memorial at Stokesay Castle via Land of Lost Content and their WW1 exhibit.
- **Ludlow** Awaiting publication of Derek Beattie's *The Home Front in Ludlow in the First World War*
- Walk entitled **My 21st cancelled due to the war**. Walk around Downton Hall using extracts from the War diaries of Rouse-Boughton's, son of the then owner.
- **Much Wenlock** Dick Bailey agreed to look at suitable topics, probably based on the railways and quarries.
- **Stanton Lacy** Walk to commemorate Gallipoli 1915 stressing the war was a World War not just Flanders. Walk from Stanton Lacey to Stokesay Court. Talk about William Williams VC, great loss of life, Stokesay Court as auxiliary military hospital. Read some of thank you letters sent to Stokesay from patients.
- **Stiperstones** Walk 1916? Commemorating the battle of the Somme. Possibly led by Shropshire Mines Trust. Walk featuring German POWs work on the aerial ropeway in 1917 and a new adit dug called the **Somme Tunnel** at the Bog Centre.

KP

DB

JS informed the meeting that the funding application would be discussed at a meeting to be held on Mon 9 Sep where all WW1 events were coordinated.

JS had discussed some of the plans with Bob Hockenhull *BBC Midlands Today* who was interested in filming some of the events.

KP would attend the next LAF on Thu Oct 17 to brief the meeting on the WW1 walk plans. JS will invite the chair from the Telford and Wrekin LAF so events could be coordinated

JS/KP

with them.

After five years of hard work Peter Francis will launch [and sign] his new book on Friday 27th September at Castle Gates Library Shrewsbury 7.30pm. - 'Sites of Remembrance' An exploration of Shropshire war memorials £12. "The content will be locally based but also include a wide range of other chapters on subjects such as the history of remembrance, architects and designers and unusual memorials. It will be around 250 pages in length and include many drawings and photographs."

Events

The following events were noted:

- Much Wenlock Walking Weekend 2013 this weekend with 9 walks and 120 people signed up for them.
- Cleobury Country Food and Ale Trail has 150, mainly local , people attending
- Ludlow Magnalonga was a "sell-out" 600 people attending.

Walking With Offa

Clare Fildes Shropshire Hills AONB briefed the meeting on the project's status:

- 6 new walks produced all involving local businesses and walk leaflets were distributed to the meeting.
- Shuttle bus services it is hoped will be funded for the next 2 years.
- It is felt that the Castle Connect bus service could be made self-funding so all were asked to promote its use by local walking groups as much as possible.
- There will be a Walking with Offa Walking Festival Conference **on the 7th November 2013 at the Burton Hotel, Kington, Herefordshire.** (Please click [here](#) for the Burton Hotel).

All

Chairmanship

KP agreed to continue as Chair but asked all to consider if they would like to take over from him at some stage in the future.

All

Date of Next Meeting

10am – 12noon, Friday 24th January 2014

Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms

TOPIC: Reprinting of Ian Jones walk guides