

# NOTES FROM NORTH SHROPSHIRE WALK FORUM

## MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2015

**Present:** Trevor Allison(Ramblers), Mike Bossen (W4H,West Felton), Peter Carr (Ramblers), Mark Cuthbert-Brown(Kinnerley P3), Liz Evans(W4H), Ian McKenzie (Kinnerley P3), Pat Middleton (Kinnerley P3), Ann Moore (Whitchurch Walkers), Neil Moore (Whitchurch Walkers).

### **Walking for Health**

The next volunteer walk leader's training is on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December at The Lantern in Sundorne, Shrewsbury. If you know anyone who is interested please contact Liz Evans ([Liz.Evans@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Liz.Evans@shropshire.gov.uk)).

Walking for Health in the north remains quite static in numbers, but most groups are doing well with the exception of Oswestry and Wem.

There is a new group in Harmer Hill on a Thursday morning which is being trialled for 6 weeks.

Peter Carr and Liz to visit Dave Preston from Oswestry Town Council, to see what opportunities there are for promoting walking for health.

### **Walkers are Welcome**

The national committee are holding their annual general meeting in Whitchurch on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November. Peter suggested inviting town councillors from Ellesmere and Market Drayton in addition to Whitchurch ones.

Next year's Whitchurch walking festival is from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016.

Oswestry has its last walk of the year on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 10am from Cae Glas park. It concerns the people from Oswestry who were in the war.

### **WW1 walks**

The next walk is in Oswestry on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 10am at Cae Glas park. See attached poster.

### **Walk Leader Training, Meres and Mosses**

The Meres and Mosses are arranging for a 3 day training to promote the special qualities of the Meres and Mosses by creating a small group of volunteer walk leaders who will lead a successful range of well interpreted, guided walks throughout the Local Partnership Scheme area. Full details to follow when available. Please let Liz know if you want to do it.

### **Big Pathwatch**

This is about 33% completed in Shropshire. Trevor has done over 600 squares.

If anyone is interested in helping the Ramblers with this, please contact Trevor Allison directly at [eta-06@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:eta-06@tiscali.co.uk).

### **Shropshire Way Rationalisation**

This is difficult to promote as a long distance route due to it not connecting, parts are clearly not used – it needs a rationalisation and re-launch. Ramblers are to lead on this.

### **Promoting Walking in North Shropshire**

How do we get an enthusiasm for promoting walking?

In Whitchurch, people talk about the Sandstone way, not the Shropshire way.

Borderland tourism want to promote Oswalds trail – 600 downloads per month – people in Oswestry are not taking this on.

Sam Divine Turner from Meres and Mosses is working on viewranger. As people like technical gadgets, this may be a way forward.

It was also felt the town council could be more active in promoting walking.

### **Ploughing and Cropping 2016**

Peter succinctly outlined responsibilities of landowners and was asked to write this down and send it out to everyone.

He has formulated a plan with Shona, Rights of Way team leader, for next year. Shona will give the Ramblers a list of paths that have a history of cropping problems – the Ramblers will report on them to Shona. Shona will then send out a stronger letter explaining intent to inform the Rural Payments Agency. The Ramblers will then go back 3 weeks later and report again. Following this, the cutting machine can be sent in and a bill sent to the landowner for the work. It was felt it would only have to be done for 1 farmer and the rest would comply.

### **Next meeting**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2pm, small hall, Ellesmere town hall.