

Central Shropshire Walking Forum

Notes of Meeting

2 pm, Wednesday 18th Feb 2015

The Wilfred Owen Room, Shirehall Shrewsbury

Attendees:

Clare Fildes, Shropshire Outdoor Partnership Clare.fildes@shropshire.gov.uk
Mick Dunn, Shropshire Outdoor Partnership mick.dunn@shropshire.gov.uk
David Hardwick, Shropshire Outdoor Partnership david.hardwick@shropshire.gov.uk
Helen Beresford, Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships helen.beresford@shropshire.gov.uk
Bob Coalbran, Wellington WaW and WfH bywrekin.bob@btinternet.com
Bill Hodges, Shrewsbury Ramblers vibill@phonecoop.coop
John Newnham, Shrewsbury Ramblers john.newnham@btinternet.com
Dick Bailey, Much Wenlock WaW & Walking for Health gdickson.bailey@virgin.net
Susan Daykin, Marden Walking for Health susanedaykin@gmail.com
Brian Dale-Patteson, RA & U3A rosanbrian@yahoo.co.uk
Tim Parker, Condover P3 tim.parker@nhs.net
Geoff Sproson, Marches LDWA & Stiperstones Inn walking@marchesgroupldwa.eu

Apologies:

Trevor Allison
Barbara Martin

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

Clare Fildes opened the meeting at 1400hrs.

2. **Feedback/Action from Previous meeting**

- a. The new Shropshire Walking Website is currently being designed and developed. Clare may approach groups in the near future to carry out some testing on the site before it goes live.
- b. A tender and suggestions for the new Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships display equipment is now in.
- c. Mick has produced a poster to display in Tourist Information Centre and Library.
- d. Condover has now started a walking group and carry out one walk a month at the moment.

3. **Group Updates**

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

- a. **Bob Coalbran** (Walkabout Wrekin & Wellington WaW) – Bob has started work on the production of the Shropshire Way Central, routes 16 & 17 guides. Volunteers from Wellington Walkers are welcome also walked the routes. Strimming and clearance work has been undertaken on a stretch of path connecting the Shropshire Way and the Silkin Way, which proved to be a difficult task and will require regular maintenance.

WaW have contributed an article to the Shropshire Walkers are Welcome leaflet which is being produced.

Wellington WaW continue planning for the Wellington Walking festival taking place from the 14th to 20th September 2015. The festival programme should be finalised and available in early spring.

www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/Festival.html

b. **John Newnham** (Shrewsbury Ramblers) – Ramblers Membership is on the increase. Regular advertising in the Chronical & Shropshire Star.

There will be another map reading course in spring for Shrewsbury Ramblers members.

Big Path Watch will be running during Jun - Sep 2015. Shropshire Ramblers will be inviting members to survey paths within a grid square. Hopefully most of Shropshire will be covered. A similar survey was carried out in 2006 so a comparison of results will be extremely interesting.

The Shrewsbury Ramblers P3 group have had to postpone some work due to inclement weather. They are out on average one day a week doing lots of maintenance work (including work outside their area).

c. **Dick Bailey** (Much Wenlock Walking for Health & WaW) – WfH in Much Wenlock is now being headed up by Phil Wadlow. The WfH numbers remain very good.

WaW made contact with Tim Simmonds and the P3 group is going well. Dick raised concerns about the ongoing issue at Shadwell Quarry and unauthorised path diversions. Action: Mick to speak to Shona Butter to get an update on the issues in Much Wenlock.

The Shropshire Walkers are Welcome groups recently met in Ironbridge.

Planning continues for the Much Wenlock Walking Weekend to be held from the 4th to 7th Sep 2015.

www.2shrop.net/2shropnet/AToZOfMinisites/W/WalkersAreWelcomeInMuchWenlock/WenlockWalkingWeekend

d. **Susan Daykin** (Marden Walking for Health) – Marden Medical Practice WfH doing very well with numbers on the increase. Susan stressed the need for more social walking and variety. Action: Mick to arrange a Shrewsbury Volunteer Walk Leaders networking meeting and walk

e. **Tim Parker** (Condover P3) – Condover P3 group has been carrying out occasional Wednesday morning work parties clearing local footpaths. A new walking group has started in Condover meeting monthly at the moment. Tim would like to investigate the possibility of developing walking in local schools. Action: Mick to arrange to meet with Tim reference the new walking group and School walks/talks

f. **David Hardwick** (Maintenance Team) – David has been identifying action areas such as Rushbury, Worthen, Cardington and Brockton and is liaising with Parish Councils and the local communities to establish priority routes for maintenance. Hopefully there will be new P3 groups at Uffington and Pulverbatch. Helen added that there were also new P3 groups in Wheathill and Tong.

g. **Brian Dale-Patteson** (RA, U3A) – The U3A walking groups go from strength to strength with 6 walking groups meeting fortnightly providing a range of walks. Brian

stressed the need for different levels of walks to make walking as inclusive as possible.

h. **Geoff Sproson** (Marches LDWA & Stiperstones Inn) – There are now over 200 members of the Marches LDWA. The Challenge walks are very popular and places are filling up very quickly (places for the Long Mynd Hike normally fill up within 2hrs of entries opening) Planning taking place for a 100 mile challenge walk in 2016. As well as the challenge walks the Marches LDWA also hold regular social walks. Details of all walks can be found on the web site www.marchesgroupldwa.eu Planning for the memorial walk is still ongoing. There are some issue with footpaths on the route. Action: David to liaise with Geoff reference the footpath problems

4. Walking Coordinator Updates

a. **Get Walking Week 2015.** There will be no national Ramblers short walks festival in 2015 due to putting their efforts into an exciting project to mark the Ramblers 80th Anniversary. Mick intends to do a mini get walking week at the beginning of May to launch this year's Tuesday evening walks programme.

b. **Pontesford Hill.** Contracts have been exchanged with the current owners to buy the Hill. Once fundraising has been completed the hill will be owned and managed by Shropshire Wildlife Trust, so protecting access to the hill. The official launch was held on 23 Jan at the Mary Webb school in Pontesbury. There is now a Pontesford Hill Appeal web page which gives details of various fund raising events and how the appeal is progressing. <http://pontesford-hill-appeal.co.uk>

c. **2015 Shropshire Walking Festivals.** Post cards showing the details of all the walking festivals have been produced by WaW. A full list of Walking festivals and events in Shropshire is attached. The list is also included on the Shropshire Walking Facebook page. Attendees are requested to give details of any events not on the list to Mick Dunn so he can keep it updated.

d. **Shropshire Way Central.** PDFs for the Shropshire Way routes 16 & 17 will soon be produced. It is hoped to produce a pdf for Shrewsbury this summer.

5. **Outdoor Recreation Updates:** Clare Fildes updated the forum on the following points:

a. **Funding.** There are further significant funding cuts being made across the Council. Currently there are concerns about public health funding and how it will affect Outdoor Partnerships. No fixed budget for next year at the moment.

b. **River Severn Project.** Clare informed the forum about the River Severn flood alleviation project which hopefully will include improvements to the Severn Way footpath and usage of the river.

c. **Volunteering project.** Clare is working on a project to increase active volunteering opportunities in disadvantaged communities to help increase physical activity levels.

d. **Walking Forum.** Clare asked if there were any willing volunteers to Chair the Walking Forum. Volunteers are requested to let Clare know at the next meeting. Clare would also like names of any other organisations/individuals who we can invite to attend the Walking forum.

6. AOB

7. Date of next meeting:

2pm. Friday 15th May 2015, The Lantern, Meadow Farm Drive, Shrewsbury SY14NG

2015 Shropshire Walking Festivals / Challenge Walks / Charity Walks

WALKING FESTIVALS

1st – 10th May 2015. Ironbridge Gorge Walking Festival – over 50 free and varied walks exploring the remarkable history, flora and fauna of the Gorge. <http://www.visitironbridge.co.uk/walkingfestival>

1st – 25th May 2015. Bishops Castle Walking Festival - This year the Festival will be held over three weeks, including the May Bank Holidays, giving plenty of time for walking and exploring the area and all it has to offer. <http://bishopscastlethetownhall.co.uk/events/event/bishops-castle-walking-festival/>

15th – 17th May 2015. Whitchurch Walking Festival. <http://whitchurchwalkers.co.uk>

20th - 23 Aug 2015. Church Stretton Walking Festival. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Church-Stretton-Walking-Festival-2015/757983534315681?fref=ts>

9th Aug & 15th Sep 2015. Cleobury Mortimer. <http://www.cmfa.co.uk>

9th Aug 2015. Magnalonga (Ludlow). The great food and drink walk <http://www.magnalonga.co.uk>

4th – 7th Sep 2015. Much Wenlock Walking Weekend. 4 day programme of walks in the Much Wenlock area <http://www.2shrop.net/wenlock.walks>

14th – 20th Sep 2015. Wellington Walking Festival.
<http://www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/Festival.html>

CHARITY WALKS

Sun 8th March 2015. Withies Campsite Walk (Macmillan Cancer Support). Start at The Withies Camp Site at 10 am. The Withies, Stretton Road, Much Wenlock. 3 or 6 mile options...Children and dogs welcome. Call Clare on 07789003459 for more details and to book or email thewithiescampsite@gmail.com Start at The Withies Camp Site at 10 am.

Sat 25th April 2015. Severn Stride (Severn Hospice) - Starting at the hospice site in Shrewsbury and finishing at Telford the 17 mile route will take in some of the most scenic sights that Shropshire has to offer. <http://www.severnospice.org.uk/support-us/events/severn-hospice-events/?ee=97>

Sat 9th May 2015. Bishops Castle Round and About Walk (Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research) This beautiful 23 mile circular walk rambles over the rolling Shropshire hills from Bishops Castle via Offa's Dyke and the Shropshire Way to Clun, for a welcome vegetarian hot lunch. It then returns through the Walcot Estate, Bury Ditches and Oakley Mynd. For the less intrepid, or those wanting to explore Bishops Castle before or after a shorter walk (10 or 13 miles) transport is provided to and from Clun.
<https://leukaemialymphomaresearch.org.uk/event/round-and-about-walk>

Sat 6th June 2015. The Social Network (Lingen Davies Cancer Fund) - Join one of the 3 organised events from Princess Royal Hospital to Royal Shrewsbury Hospital:

18 mile Walk – The old faithful. Road and path route which appeals to many

18 mile Run – Road and cycle/walk path route for the more energetic fundraiser

34 mile Cycle Fun Ride – Tarmac roads and cycle paths only, taking in Ironbridge, Atcham and along the Severn. www.shropshirecharityevents.co.uk

Sat 13th June 2015. Midnight Walk Telford (Severn Hospice) - The Midnight Walk has returned to be a women only event where you will start a 7km circular route at the stroke of midnight. The route this year is brand new and will explore Wellington, Hadley and Leegomery, but as always you do not need to worry

about where you are going as it is a led walk. <http://www.severnhospice.org.uk/support-us/events/severn-hospice-events/>

Sat 11th July 2015. Midnight Walk Shrewsbury (Severn Hospice) - The Midnight Walk has returned to be a women only event where you will start a 7km circular route at the stroke of midnight. The route this year is brand new and will explore the surrounding area of Shrewsbury, but as always you do not need to worry about where you are going as it is a led walk. <http://www.severnhospice.org.uk/support-us/events/severn-hospice-events/>

Sun 6th Sep 2015. Seven wonders of the Shropshire hills (Pontesford Hill and Stiperstones appeals) - A signed 16-mile circular walk with shorter options of 10, 6 and 4 miles. The full route takes you through glorious countryside including five SWT nature reserves (Nipstone, The Hollies, Brook Vessons, Hope Valley and Earl's Hill) www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

Sat 10th October 2015. RUSSET RAMBLE - 12 mile sponsored walk around the local footpaths in aid of Bishop's Castle Bowling Club. For more information please contact Heather Ashton walkbc@live.co.uk
<http://www.bishopscastle.co.uk/tourism/events.htm>

CHALLENGE WALKS

Sat 16th May 2015. Clun Valley Challenge Walk - Choose either the 26 or 16 mile route, both with some challenging Shropshire Hills (approximately 4300' of ascent). The scenery is spectacular and the route consists of tracks, bridleways, footpaths and a minimal amount of quiet road walking/running. There are 3 manned checkpoints (long route) with refreshments in addition to self clip passage controls.
<http://clunvalleychallenge.com/>

Sat 18th July 2015. Wenlock Olympian Walk - A 50 mile challenge walk organised in conjunction with the Wenlock Olympian Society who inaugurated the Wenlock Olympian Games in 1850. The walk is over demanding rural countryside and moorland in the Shropshire Hills to the west of Much Wenlock.
<http://www.marchesgroupdwa.eu/wow/index.html>

Sat 15th Aug 2015. Bishops Castle Challenge Walk - Bishop's Castle Challenge Walk is a new 24 mile hike with 4000ft. of ascent over stunningly beautiful uplands of the Shropshire Hills
<http://www.bcchallengewalk.co.uk/>

3rd & 4th October 2015. The Longmynd Hike - The Longmynd Hike is a 50 mile competition hike open to anyone aged 18 or over, which takes place over the first weekend of October every year.
<http://www.longmyndhike.org.uk>

IF YOU KNOW OF AN EVENT WHICH IS NOT ON THE LIST PLEASE LET ME KNOW THE DETAILS AND IT CAN BE ADDED