



WWW Walkers Web Words

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News Flash V2 12



Editor and Publisher: Basil Merry

September 2017

Winter Programme and 2017/18

By now you should have received the Winter Walks programme commencing from 1 October. This features nearly 150 walks, with something to suit nearly everyone.

As usual, additional walks will be added, and changes including unavoidable cancellations, will be updated on *walksfinder* on our or the national web site.

The programme includes notification of our **Annual General Meeting** at the Public Lecture Theatre, Chesterfield on **Saturday 4 November** commencing at 09.30 hours.

Tea, coffee, and biscuits will be provided, and hopefully also an after-meeting speaker. Details to follow.

All the committee posts are up for election. Existing incumbents appear willing to continue for a further year, but they can be challenged, if you wish.

We continue to have vacancies in important positions and these are holding back the progress of the Group.

We need an **Area Council Delegate to each of SYNED and Derbyshire Area**. In the absence of a delegate we have no voice. You may need to be reminded that it was a joint resolution from both SYNED and Derbyshire Area which got passed at the last national General Council meeting on ploughing and cropping obstructions. This forces the problem onto the national agenda, and the General Council has to respond as to what steps they have taken.

Locally we have also done a lot on this with a meeting with the Local secretary of the NFU, and considerable pressure, from all Derbyshire Groups, on DCC to take more effective action. The new political administration is well aware of our concerns and there has been some improvement this year.

Whilst we get occasional write-ups in the Derbyshire Times, when their space permits, and have a presence on both Facebook and Twitter, we need a **Publicity Secretary**, to create publicity at more local levels e.g. in parish newsletters, on notice boards, in libraries, retailers etc.

The recent successful gathering at Holymoorside, confirms that we need more social type activities. Step forward a **Social Secretary** to organise occasional get-togethers, quizzes, talks etc. It's really not that hard.

Lastly, we need a new **Newsletter Editor**. The existing one is 'lost for words' and needs to be put out to grass.

Most of these roles could be shared, with a colleague, and you may find you have a vocation for it.

Anyway, please attend the AGM, and use your hands to vote and volunteer – don't sit on them!

Footpath Volunteers

Discussions have taken place with DCC and we are close to getting their final proposals following the budget cuts in April.

We are hopeful that some practical work will resume shortly, if not in the same quantity as before. There is much to do and any member can assist merely by walking local paths and reporting problems found to DCC and us.

By all means volunteer to assist – contact Mike Sims on 01246 276803.

Reporting stiles 'in disrepair'

The following has been received from DCC and we ask those making fault reports on the online system to note and respond accordingly in future. As you know a single photograph tells a thousand words, but you may have to compress it if you receive a size limitation response.

'We are continually improving our processes and in attempt to cut down the number of repeat visits, which enables the Inspectors to handle more reports, it would be useful to receive accurate information to allow us the opportunity to decide what action we can take on receipt of the report.'

When reporting a gate/stile that is in disrepair could your members be clear about the condition and avoid using phrases like "...it's in poor condition..." or "...could do with attention..."?

When we receive reports of this nature it will prompt a site visit so that we can assess the structure and make a decision whether it is actually in a safe condition or its condition does not interfere with the use of the route. We will not ignore any reports but by providing detailed information about its condition it does allow for an initial assessment and provides useful information we can pass on to the owner.

So, to assist us, I would be very grateful if your members would provide detailed information that allows an initial desktop assessment. For example, '.footboard missing...', "...stile collapsed..." or "...gate not hung correctly and will not open...". These are very useful indicators and will prompt us to contact the owner without the need for an initial site visit. There will always be a follow up site visit but by being able to relay that initial information to an owner we have saved a site visit and we find the owner does respond to our initial contact and repairs are carried out. All this helps us become that bit more efficient.

I hope you can assist us'

Regards

Peter J White

Rights of Way Officer, Derbyshire County Council

Walking Festival Report

The Walking Festival may be well behind us but we have just received the Festival Summary Survey Results from the council organizer.

429 attendees responded with 70.8% rating the events as excellent and 25.3% as good. 0.3% rated it as poor.

All the walks put on by the Group were well attended and received very positive feedback.

The range of the 66 walks was considered good or excellent by 99.2% and ditto the Festival Programme 99.7%

Overall a brilliant effort and our thanks to all leaders, organisers, and support volunteers.

The only real moan was about the numbers on some walks. There doesn't seem to be any easy way to control those who book, and don't turn up, or those who just turn up unannounced.

World Mental Health Day 12 October 2017

Walking is not only good for physical health but also for improving mental health. Accordingly, as previously notified, the Group will be involved in a promotion at the Royal Hospital at Calow on Thursday 12 October from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

The theme is physical and mental health in the workplace, but is also an opportunity to promote exercise generally, the countryside, and sociability.

If anyone is prepared to assist with say a 2-hour attendance they will be welcome. As usual please contact via cnedra@btinternet.com

An earlier similar session at Eckington Civic Centre attracted a good attendance with several requesting our Winter Walks programme when available.

New Walking Route Leaflet

A short walking route from the Railway Station into and around Chesterfield has been devised and free leaflets will be available shortly.

The route takes advantage of the shared motor vehicle free track that links the station to Ravenside Shopping Precinct, Queens Park, and towards Walton highlighting points of historical, and art significance along the way. One, Rosewall, by Barbara Hepworth, owned by Chesterfield Borough Council, has just been granted grade II status.

If nothing else it demonstrates Ramblers don't all do long walks, at rapid pace, with their eyes down, seeing nothing along the way.

PDGLA

The latest edition of the PDGLA newsletter is available on request.

Forthcoming events and meetings

2 October 2017: Group Footpath Committee Meeting at Holymoorside Village Hall – 07.00 p.m

14-29 October 2017: Discovery Days at Derwent Valley Mills. 16 days of events and activities.
www.derwentvalleymills.org

28 October 2017: RDRoWC Meeting at the Saints Parish Centre, Chesterfield – 10.30 a.m. start.

4 November 2017: Group AGM at Public Library Lecture Theatre, Chesterfield commencing at 09.30 a.m. Speaker details to follow.

20 November 2017: ACRoW and SYNED Area Council meetings in Sheffield

4 December 2017: Group Footpath Committee Meeting at Holymoorside Village Hall – 07.00 p.m.

10 January 2018: Derbyshire Area Council meeting at Belper.

20 January 2018: Derbyshire Area AGM at Spondon Village Hall commencing at 2.00 p.m. Probably preceded by a short walk – details to follow.

27 January 2018: SYNED AGM to be organized by Rotherham Metro Group. 2.00 p.m at Herringthorpe United Reform Church, preceded by a 5-mile rural walk.

26 February 2018: ACRoW and SYNED Area Council meetings in Sheffield

12 – 20 May 2018: Chesterfield Area Walking Festival

04 June 2018: ACRoW and SYNED Area Council meetings in Sheffield

20 August 2018: ACRoW and SYNED Area Council meetings in Sheffield

26 November 2018: ACRoW and SYNED Area Council meetings in Sheffield

27 January 2019: SYNED AGM. Details to follow.

E&OE.

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