

Wellington Walkers are Welcome

Path Maintenance Organisers Report - AGM Thursday 29/10/20

Although the following statistics are roughly similar to those presented to the last AGM, they cover an extended period due to the postponement of the AGM from July to October, thereby representing 15 months in total.

Path maintenance activities were reduced to a relatively low level following the lockdown imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic. Although regular sessions with larger numbers using shared cars have not taken place, a number of smaller sessions have been held in order to maintain various footpaths. It has been noticeable since lockdown, that footfall on many of the paths has increased due to the promotion of outdoor activities, and this has helped to keep growth down and maintain accessibility.

Nevertheless, since the last AGM, we have worked on a total of 23 sessions, comprising an estimated 240 person-hours. Prior to lockdown, only 4 sessions were cancelled - 2 due to weather conditions, and 2 due to Christmas / New Year breaks. Since the end of March, sessions have only been held on ad-hoc basis. Our average attendance across all sessions was 3.6 persons.

The worked sessions covered a range of activities including:

- Cutting back overgrown vegetation
- Clearing stiles / kissing gates
- Clearing fallen trees
- Litter picking (supplementary to path clearing, along and around areas worked)
- Litter picking (sole activity)
- Maintaining way-marking of the Shropshire Way, Hutchison Way, and T50 50 Mile Trail.
- Providing assistance to the Friends of Bowring Park, cutting back hedgerows
- Providing assistance to the newly formed Friends of The Ercall, clearing and re-turfing firepits, and clearing fallen trees.
- A joint session with Telford and East Shropshire Ramblers clearing, and litter picking, a section of The Hutchison Way at Lawley.

One session in November was given over purely to waymarking, and one in January purely to a litter pick.

Our sessions during the main 'growing seasons' continue to be more productive due to the use of the petrol engine brush-cutter.

The sites we have worked on through the period, several of which we have visited more than once, include:

- Allscott - railway crossing
- Arleston Village Lane
- Bowring Park
- Christine Avenue - Boardwalk / M54
- Ercall woods - Shropshire Way
- Hollandstile - Old Shropshire Way
- Lawley - Hutchison Way
- Limekiln Woods - Boardwalk steps
- Limekiln Woods - Limekilns towards Short Woods

Wellington Walkers are Welcome

Path Maintenance Organisers Report - AGM Thursday 29/10/20

- Mill Lane - Waterloo Road
- Roseway parallel path (Tan Bank to New Church Road)
- Rushmoor Lane parallel path
- Short Woods - Steeraway Diversion
- Sunnylands Wrockwardine Road to Orleton Lane
- Tiddiecross - Old Shropshire Way
- Wrekin - Forest Glen - Litter pick
- Wrekin Link (Admaston Allotments to Wrockwardine Road)
- Wrockwardine - clearing stiles around the village

Equipment expenditure has been minimal –petrol for the brush-cutter, and parts to repair one of the battery operated strimmers.

We continue to lobby Telford & Wrekin Council to deal with issues that are beyond our capabilities, such as footbridge and stile repairs / replacements, albeit with limited success.

Thanks again to everybody who has contributed to making the path maintenance sessions so successful. The impact of our sessions can be seen in the Path Team Galley on our website at: <https://www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/path-maintenance-new>

Although regular sessions may still not be practical with the continued pandemic restrictions, we are still open to new volunteers joining our email list, and to receiving reports of footpath blockages that we may be able to assist with.

Please contact us at: PathTeam@wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk