

Wellington Walkers are Welcome  
Chair's Report for the AGM on Zoom on the 29th October 2020

Well what a year we have had!

Our 2019 Walking Festival was extremely successful and we have managed to put on a 2020 Walking Festival despite the Covid pandemic.

I can't take any credit for this as I have had to take a very back seat due to my medical problems as well as my husband's, Jim. However I am emerging from this enforced lack of mobility and I hope to be back at full power soon.

So I must thank all of the committee for working so hard to keep our organisation functioning so effectively during this most challenging of times.

A huge thank you needs to go to Naomi for making sure the rules related to Covid are correctly interpreted and keeping everyone informed by all the developments and events. This has been so important when we have had to rely on IT systems to 'meet" and discuss details.

Malcolm has been a big support as well as Pam. A big thank you to them.

Malcolm has restarted path maintenance sessions. His hard work is extremely admirable.

Our new most able and thorough Treasurer, Sheila, has kept our accounts up to date. Thank you for taking on this role.

Our new Publicity Secretary, Jean, has been an enormous help in spreading information about what Wellington Walkers are Welcome are doing. Press reports and speaking on the radio are very important ways to advertise what we do and thank you to Jean for taking on this role.

Bob continues to liaise with other organisations and this helps to elevate our profile amongst other local groups. I am grateful for his drive in doing this and he has helped us focus on the need to maximise our impact in the area.

Bob was awarded a Mayor's Award, partially for his work on behalf of Wellington Walkers are Welcome. He regards it as being for the group for our work on promoting the town and running the Wellington Walking Festival.

Sadly we have had to say goodbye to Dorothy. She has decided to stand down from the committee after giving us 10 years of loyal and effective guidance. It was Dorothy's vision to make Wellington a Walkers are Welcome town all those years ago and she got the project off the ground. A huge thank you must go to her for putting Wellington on the walking map, and this has benefited the economy of the town and the health of those who have joined in our walks.

Julie Pierce, councillor for Park Ward, is taking over from Dorothy and I'd like to offer her a very warm welcome to our committee.

Our other committee members - Toni, June and Brian are valuable supporters and I'd like to thank them too for the work that they do.

I hope that we will continue to provide really good walking opportunities over the next year, whatever restrictions are in place, as we have a dynamic committee who work so hard to achieve this goal.

Eve Clevenger