

## WALKERS ARE WELCOME ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Town: ...**Leyburn, North Yorkshire**.....

*To maintain your status as a Walkers are Welcome town, please send this report by email to the WaW Secretary [andrew@andrewbibby.com](mailto:andrew@andrewbibby.com) by 31 March 2010.*

**1. Please use the space below to summarise the main activities you have undertaken in 2009 to ensure that your town/village continues to be one where walkers are welcome. Please relate what you write to the six WaW criteria.**

- a. We started organising Leyburn's first walking festival – The Leyburn Turner Trail Walking Festival. This is to be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 18, 19 20 June. The walks planned are all associated with artist J M W Turner.
- b. In conjunction with the walking festival plans, we liaised with the tourist authority Welcome to Yorkshire and they are going to re launch the Yorkshire Turner Trail and replace a trail of Turner benches to coincide with our walking festival. This was mentioned by Welcome to Yorkshire CEO Gary Verity at the recent Y10 Conference attended by 1,500 people at the Harrogate Exhibition Centre – the biggest regional tourism conference in England.
- c. We held a pie and pea supper and invited potential friends such as town councillors and people from other societies.
- d. We contacted local artists and local artist groups to exhibit at the Turner Trail Art Exhibition. The children of Wensleydale are painting and exhibiting too.
- e. Our chairman has been in contact with the local footpaths officer. He is now aware of our WaW status, and we report any stile, gate or footpath damage .
- f. We delivered WAW stickers to retailers and accommodation providers in Leyburn.

**2. If you have undertaken any initiatives which you feel are particularly innovative and which might be of interest to other Walkers are Welcome towns/villages, please give details below.**

Please see plans for our walking festival above. Also, we are holding a dance on the Saturday evening of the festival weekend. And the Art exhibition is on all week. We are meeting the Welcome to Yorkshire team on 17<sup>th</sup> June, and we are hopeful of a lot of good publicity for Leyburn WaW from our joint venture with them.

**3. What funding have you been able to obtain? Have you any evidence of ways in which WaW status is helping your community, your local economy?**

We have received pledges of £50 from the town council and £100 from the local business association towards our walking festival.

We are following up a lead to receive an educational grant because we have asked local schools to take part in the Turner Trail Art Exhibition. This should be around £200.

The main fillip so far for the local community is the organisation of a walking festival, which is being undertaken by the WAW committee.

**4. The Walkers are Welcome principle is a 'bottom-up' one, operating on the basis of mutual support and activity. What contributions are you making towards developing the network, nationally and/or regionally? (eg: attendance at conference, mentoring other towns)**

We recently attended an event in Grassington called Projects And Opportunities, organised by North Yorkshire County Council and Action for Market Towns. The aim was to make contact with other towns engaged in similar activities, eg festivals. We passed on our details to other delegates to spread the word that they could contact us about information sharing on walking festivals.

Welcome to Yorkshire CEO Gary Verity attended our pie and pea fundraising event and he is now aware of the Walkers Are Welcome towns network. Welcome to Yorkshire is an important partner to have on board and this led to the collaboration and tie up for the Yorkshire Turner Trail project and the Leyburn Turner Trail Walking Festival.

**Declaration**

We wish to apply for continuation of our status as a Walkers are Welcome town/village. We have sent a cheque for our annual membership to the Walkers are Welcome treasurer.

Name: Martin Crowson

Organisation: Leyburn Walkers Are Welcome

*Note: Annual returns will normally be posted on the WaW website, so that others are aware of each town's achievements. Please advise us if for any reason you would rather that this form was not made public.*