

WALKERS ARE WELCOME ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Town: ...Wiveliscombe
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To maintain your status as a Walkers are Welcome town, please send this report by email to the WaW Secretary 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.*

Wiveliscombe became fully accredited at the end of September 2009 having heard about WAW only 4 months before. This status as the first town in Somerset, was launched at the end of October and attended by Town and County Councillors as well as our local MP. Our mentor from WAW also attended, made a speech and cut the celebratory cake. The rest of the day was spent walking the local footpaths. A variety of walks were undertaken ranging from the complete 23 mile Wivey Way encircling Wiveliscombe to walks of 2 miles long. Most people achieved about 8miles. In total about 60 people were walking the footpaths but more than this attended the launch ceremony demonstrating good local support.

During 2009 the "Wivey Way" has been fully way-marked. The signs were funded and designed by Wiveliscombe & District Rotary Club and are now in place.

The local walking group regularly walks the footpaths including the "Wivey Way". Signage, access and safety are regularly assessed and any problems reported as appropriate.

Funding for walking projects is provided from the sale of "Wiveliscombe Circular Walks" book. The initial grant for this book was obtained from the lottery "Awards for All". The book is widely available in the locality £3.90 and can be ordered by post for £5.00. All monies received are retained in a parish council bank account and are used for walking related activities.

The WAW annual conference in Church Stretton was attended by 3 people from Wiveliscombe all of whom benefited and contributed to the conference. The leader of the local walking group has now become the WAW mentor for Somerset and North Devon. She was contacted by 2 Somerset towns soon after the launch but despite having been in touch by telephone and e-mail no follow-on response to date.

Arrangements are being made to enable all walking activities in our area to be covered by Parish Council and Somerset County Council Environmental Services Insurance. We feel that this should provide sufficient cover for our needs.

Plans are progressing for the first celebratory "Wivey Way Day" on Saturday June 12th 2010. The aim is to promote the defined walks in and around our area and to encourage locals and visitors alike to walk and appreciate the beautiful countryside accessible en route. Walkers will be encouraged to do as much or as little as they like, forming their own group or joining a guided walk.

Our annual charity walk will take place on May 2nd. This contributes to the local Rotary Clubs initiative called "Its Childsplay" designed to encourage walks throughout the southwest. All funds will be directed to Children's Hospice in the southwest. These walks, together with our regular walks will be advertised widely and through the WAW website.

Since joining WAW Wiveliscombe has become more "walking aware". Numbers joining our regular walks have increase and an additional group has been formed to encourage less active people to do a gentle walk.

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.

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?

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*)

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:

Organisation:

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.