

Southern Walking Forum

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Minutes of 6th Meeting

The Green Room, Wistanstow Village Hall, Craven Arms

10 am – 12 noon, Friday 24th January 2014

Present:

Keith Pybus	KP Chair	Shropshire Way Association
Jim Stabler	JS	Access Development Officer, Shrop. Council
Dick Bailey	DB	Much Wenlock WAW
Val Simpson	VS	Cleobury Mortimer WAW
Ray Hughes	RH	Shropshire Council
Michael Holland	MH	Ludlow P3 Group
Rick Summers	RS	Ludlow P3 & Whitcliffe Common
Peter James	PJ	Clun P3 Coordinator, Ramblers F.P. Secretary & Clun WAW
Chris Chillingworth	CP	Ludlow P3
Steph Hayes	SH	Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership
Steven Levers	SL	Bishops Castle WAW and P3
Helen Knight	HK	Macmillan Cancer Support
Helen d'Albert	Hd'A	Walking Coordinator South Shropshire, Shropshire Council

Apologies:

Trish Howard	TH	Walking for Health Church Stretton
Marion Law	ML	Rail Rambles
David Hardwick	DH	Countryside Recreation Officer, Shrop. Council
Simon Cooter	SC	Natural England
Sue Jones	SJ	Shropshire Area Ramblers

Introduction and Welcome

KP introduced and welcomed Helen d'Albert – who took over from Ian Pearmain as the South Shropshire Walking Coordinator in October 2013.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

Forum Topic –

SHROPSHIRE'S WAINWRIGHT

Ian Jones Guides

Although the Forum had previously agreed to pursue the publishing, albeit in a revised form, of the Guides, some members had reservations. Was it a project that was too ambitious? Should it be given this priority? How should we avoid direct competition with recently published guides for Clun and Ludlow?

PJ explained that sales through CTN outlets may depend upon the low price charged. A more polished product would cost more and if the retail price had to be increased, these outlets might drop out.

Others still felt this was a piece of our walking culture worth preserving. If any new versions were to be test-marketed, the walks would need re-walking. To avoid direct competition with the Ludlow or Clun books and to

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avoid the burden of re-walking as many as a dozen walks falling on the same shoulders, the Forum might have to consider an 'omnibus' publication which had not previously been attempted with, say, two or three walks from each of the main areas. KP had always felt the guides have great charm but are lacking in one important respect: they have little or no interpretative material, which would add to the work to be undertaken.

Keith approached Ian some years ago informally in connection with online walks. Ian told him 'you can have my copyright as long as you are not making any money out of it and as long as you don't bother me.'

It was agreed nothing could or should be undertaken without sounding out Ian Jones' view on any of the proposed changes to his original works. It was proposed that KP would be the best person to undertake this. He agreed.

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<p>Recent walking publications <i>Ludlow</i> -MH Ludlow P3 had reviewed their chosen walks against <i>Ian Jones 10 Circular walks</i>. 6 are updated versions of the Ian Jones'. Their new publication is up to date and in colour. <i>Clun</i> – PJ reported 3 leaflets WAW series – Clun just published. The Clun 33 favourite walks is now on its 3rd Edition- issue raised by PJ about distribution of these – sold via Ludlow book shop and in Knighton; AONB does not have manpower to distribute/promote them to individual shops. VS observed local walks books sell best in their own locality. AONB - SH reported that they were recently approached by a Publisher to look at producing a book including some walks from the area. This is not AONB funded so it cannot appear as a free download.</p>	
<p>Walk the Page (WFH walk in Ludlow) Hd'A provided feedback from her discussions with Nick Purnell who has been running these- They started in the summer and are now advertised on the WFH website. Walks run monthly on a Saturday from Ludlow Library. NP will leave at the end of March and is exploring its future plans with the current members.</p>	
<p>WAW JS has added page on Walking In Shropshire website http://www.shropshirewalking.co.uk/ - any ideas for further development please contact JS. JS expressed view that it would be useful to add a link to WAW website and to local walks publications.</p>	<p>JS & W.A.W .</p>
<p>SL advised group about WAW Spring Gathering event at Wellington on the 20th March 2014. All details are on the national WAW website. Hd'A to also circulate the booking form and details of the event round the group. VS advised group if they have promotional leaflets they want to give out to delegates at the WAW Spring Gathering event.</p>	<p>ALL / VS</p>
<p>Hd'A advised group that had received contact from Ludlow who are resurrecting their bid for Ludlow to become a WAW town and holding meetings to discuss shortly. H d'A to send contact details for this to VS & RS.</p>	<p>Hd'A</p>
<p>VS would like a fresh print run of the Shropshire Hills WAW booklet. JS wanted to await result of Ludlow's WAW bid. - add Ludlow, Clun; and possibly Ironbridge?</p>	
<p>JS offered to reprint these WAW booklets and will coordinate with VS.</p>	<p>JS / VS / PJ</p>
<p>Current WAW booklet was produced by Mike Ashton and so PDF's are owned by S.Council. SH to send PDFs to JS.</p>	<p>SH</p>
<p>JS will include Clun page in new production – PJ said that Helen Vaughan was</p>	

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working on a project with Clun for Clun WAW - creating a website page but he had not seen the Clun WAW page. SH confirmed that Helen Vaughan has been leading the development of the Clun WAW page and she will chase progress of this and update JS and PJ.

SH

World War I Walks

JS congratulated the Forum on the project's success. £8,000 had been secured to run 20 walks over the next 5 years. There will be walks in the South Central and North where there are stories worth telling. Each walk will be launched as a guided walk, then a printed leaflet as a self guided walk, at the end of the 5 years. a folder will contain the whole series. Distribution yet to be finalised.

JS gave overview of the plans for WWI project over the 5 year period- as outlined on the WWI attachment which was circulated to the group with the agenda.

JS

In Southern region KP had been in touch with Ludlow History Group, Craven Arms & District Local History Group, churches in Stokesay [and Halford] and Hopesay, the owners of Downton Hall. Dates have now been finalised.

KP expressed thanks to all in the Southern Forum for pioneering this project.

KP has updated his Progress report and Hd'A to forward the new one to group following this meeting.

Hd'A

Bruce Bairnsfather

PJ wondered where we had the info about Bairnsfather staying in Creswell House, Clun. Could we get a plaque put on Creswell house during the Centenary? KP had seen it in the Clun Heritage Trail Point 11.

KP

KP was concerned about the future of the Bairnsfather mural in the Victory Club Ludlow. If the building were sold by the RBL, this will soon not be accessible to the public,

Members' Updates

Outdoor Recreation Team Shropshire Council- JS there are going to be cuts - the aim is to minimise the impact in the field. The organisation that it is hoped will be agreed will provide more support to the Volunteer groups. JS said he hopes that the physical support and funding will increase for the P3 groups. He

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will report back at the Local Access Forum meeting.

AOB

Trig Walks – i.e. publications to trig points...to be discussed at another time.

Chairmanship – KP said he was happy to continue as chair if all wish this- PJ proposed motion for KP to remain as Chair of the group for the foreseeable future and VS seconded this proposal.

IWM logo- KP to send out details regarding Imperial War Museum 1914 partnership website – the Southern Forum has enlisted but he recommended that individual clubs and societies join up in their own right.

KP

Next Meeting

Date and venue agreed for next meeting –

10am -12 noon Friday 25th April 2014

at the Green Room Wistanstow Village Hall, Craven Arms.

Group to send any topics to Hd'A to go onto agenda for next meeting.

All / Hd'A