



Walkers are Welcome

Annual Get Together 2023



Over the weekend of 3rd to 5th November, Whitchurch (Shropshire) hosted the Walkers are Welcome (WaW) Annual Get Together (AGT) 2023.

The venue for the Friday evening folk session was always to be The Archibald Worthington Club, but also became the venue for the Saturday events following the closure of The Civic Centre.

The weekend was a success, with delegates from 18 towns attending. We had been hoping for more towns sending delegates to participate in and enjoy the weekend, but alas it was not to be. The main aims of the AGTs is to hold the WaW General Meeting and hear the reports from WaW officers and to provide an opportunity for delegates to network with other towns (to share ideas and issues).

Despite the low turn-out, those who attended enjoyed a Friday evening of folk (and other) music to start the weekend, together with a welcome drink provided by one of our sponsors, [Pellitec Blister Prevention](#) and a hot pot cooked and served by volunteers from our fantastic walking club.

On the Saturday, following the General Meeting, presentations were held on the subjects of Slow Ways, footpath maintenance and working with local wildlife groups. Delegates were presented with a goody bag advertising Whitchurch as a walking destination. The bags were purchased thanks to the sponsorship of [Involved Holidays](#), who also offered a discount to WaW members.

The day's activities were followed by a Gala Dinner at [The Hill Valley Hotel, Spa and Golf Course](#), after which we participated in a beetle drive – a new experience for many there!

On the Sunday, many joined two walks that were offered. One was a tour of Greenfields Local Nature Reserve and led by Malcolm Monie and Paul Sears, volunteers with the Whitchurch Branch of The Shropshire Wildlife Trust. The second walk was led by Janice Leyland, a volunteer with the Whitchurch Heritage Centre and Museum, who gave some insights into the heritage of Whitchurch from Roman times to the present day.

The Whitchurch Walkers committee would also like to thank the following:

The hotpot cooks and servers – Shiela, Therese, Christine & Alan

The speakers – Jan Stevenson, Naomi Wrighton, Matthew Lanham & Malcolm Monie

The staff of The Archibald Worthington Club – Judy, Aaron & Joe

The Hill Valley - Sarah, Jacqueline & Libby

The sponsors - Involved Holidays & Pellitec Blister Prevention
Whitchurch Town Council, Mayor Andy Hall & Town Clerk Mike McDonald

The musicians of the local folk music scene