

Newsletter

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New Mills Walkers are Welcome
Steering Group

Our Aims and Objectives

- be an attractive destination for walkers with top-quality information on local walks
- offer local people and visitors excellent walking opportunities within the parish
- ensure that footpaths and facilities for walkers are maintained, improved and well signposted

Benefits to Tourism

- Attract more people to visit New Mills to enjoy local walks.
- Economic benefit for local shops, B&Bs, hotels, pubs, cafés, restaurants, etc. through increased footfall.
- Strengthen town's reputation as a walking destination when signed walks and walk guides are available
- Promote local visitor attractions.
- Compliment town's economic generation/tourism plans and strategies.
- Demonstrate that walkers will be given a warm welcome by the local community.

Footpaths

- Ensure that public footpaths remain open and maintained for the benefit of local people and visitors.
- Promote effective liaison arrangements with local councils and agencies responsible for footpaths. Members provide a focus for cooperation.
- Help to create new footpaths and walking groups.
- Encourage preparation of local walking guides and signage
- Promote the health benefits of walking and being in the countryside.
- Give local people and visitors the opportunity to learn about the culture, history and biodiversity of New Mills and surrounding countryside.

Our First Year – a Review



Editorial

First years are an emotional time for most projects, as one tries to nurture them to achieve their full potential.

Whilst New Mills Walkers are Welcome are some way off reaching their full potential, we have made a very promising start. All the hard work demanded of us to achieve accreditation is beginning to pay off.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support we have received along the way, from businesses, from New Mills Town Council and High Peak Borough Council, from the Derbyshire County Council Countryside Services and many other organisations.

But what makes it all worthwhile is the support we have received along the way from individual members of the public without whom we wouldn't have been accepted as full members of the National Walkers are Welcome Network.

So huge thanks go out to you all.

Achievements

November 2013 – Press launch of New Mills Walkers are Welcome

May 2014 – Peak District Walking Festival; we led four walks during the festival as well as organising a Fell Race as part of the Fortnight's events.

June 2014 – We had a stall at the Carnival. Our banner receives its first public outing.

July 2014 – We manned a stall at One World Festival.

September 2014 – Three walks organised as part of the Festival events, with 55–60 people attending.

Amanda Whewell produced a fabric representation of New Mills WaW group for inclusion in the much larger banner created by the Chepstow Branch on behalf of the National Organisation.

The local Ranger service have trained up several groups of people in the delightful task of assessing all our footpaths. With nearly 200 paths to keep open, we believe we have enough work for several years. So far, we've managed to check about thirty of the paths.

Our first leaflet is published detailing the paths through Goytside Meadows. Three further leaflets are in various states of preparation covering such diverse topics as the Churches of New Mills, and a circular walk based on Rowarth – a huge vote of thanks to Dave Dunford (Walks from the Door) for his work in this area.

Coming Events

1st January Social event. **Ginnels and Green Lanes walk**

Start 11.00 at New Mills Heritage and Information Centre. A short amble with a sharp incline and some rough ground. Finishes at a local pub. Unsuitable to pushchairs. About 2 miles in length.

June Stall at Carnival.

July Stall at One World Festival.

July Guided walks between the Marple and New Mills Central Stations as part of their 150th anniversary celebrations.

September Walks during New Mills Festival.

We hope to organise events in conjunction with other local Walkers are Welcome groups during the year.

We will have further training days for people wanting to take part in the Footpath Surveys.

We will have further Social Events throughout the year.



It is our aim to print at least two further leaflets during 2015, finances permitting.

Getting Involved

Footpath Surveys

Fancy surveying some of our footpaths in 2015? Enquire of our Secretary about the training days, where you can find out the standards required. We co-ordinate our work with The Ranger Service of DCC. A fun social event that helps you look more closely at the things around you.

Social Events and Committee Meetings

Come along to one of our social gatherings for a chat, a walk and a drink.

Or come along to a committee meeting. They aren't very formal and your views would be most welcome.

Contact the Secretary to find out when these events are planned.



Sponsor a Leaflet

Leaflets cost little to print in bulk, and we'll acknowledge any donation that allows us to print one of our planned walking leaflets. The more we have printed, the more visitors we can attract, and we will do our best to circulate them throughout the Peak District.

Guided Walks

Join us on one of our guided walks. We have already led walks around some of the Listed Buildings of New Mills, a Secular walk around the Churches and a Geology walk through the Torrs, and we are planning others.

For further information about any or all of these ideas, please contact our Secretary. Our email address is:

mail@nmwaw.org.uk