

NEW MILLS

The first Walkers are Welcome town
in the Peak District

www.nmwaw.org.uk

Newsletter 4

Spring 2018

Hello everyone,

It has been too long since the last in our series of occasional newsletters, not because we have nothing to tell you but because we have been too busy.

We've had leaflets produced, walks led, work parties out in the town, talks, moth evenings, bat evenings, surveys of footpaths conducted, festivals attended and meetings.

Hopefully this newsletter will give you a flavour of all our activities and some idea as to the future development of New Mills Walkers are Welcome.

As always though, if anyone has any suggestions or ideas that might be of interest to walkers around New Mills, please contact our secretary at the email address to be found at the end of this newsletter.

Mike Daniels



Annual Gathering, 2017 - Hebden Bridge

We sent a delegation of three people to the AGM, held this year in Hebden Bridge where we met up with some old friends - Bollington and Disley Walkers are Welcome had sent delegates.

In total, over seventy people from all over the country came together to celebrate Walkers are Welcome and to share ideas and good practises.

There were three seminars in the morning and another three in the afternoon which sandwiched the AGM, and we had a delegate in each workshop. Jeanne was particularly interested in activities for children, and Dave looked at eTrails, whilst Mike considered Marketing.

We all came away with ideas for the future of New Mills Walkers are Welcome, some large and some small which we will be exploring over the coming months and years.

We invited the new committee at Marsden to meet up with us and I look forward to that event.

We are also becoming more active in the work of the National Committee. Dave has agreed to give a hand with the national website and Mike has agreed to help with mentoring other towns and villages within the organisation.



Hebden Bridge

(Photo courtesy of
Freefoto.com)

Leaflets

We continue to develop a range of leaflets encouraging people to walk round the parish.

Our latest leaflet around the boundary of the parish was the product of the work of several people. Nicky and George Burgess walked the route, Sean Whewell ran the route (with Travis, the dog) and Dave Dunford wrote the leaflet, developed the map and then edited the whole.

This is leaflet number five in the range, with another being just published which concerns access to the Torrs for people with mobility issues.

We have also been involved in working co-operatively with other organisations (Spring Bank Community Arts and New Mills Heritage and Information Centre) to produce another leaflet.

The complete list is as follows

Walk One - Goytside Meadows

Walk Two - Lantern Pike from Rowarth

Walk Three - The Edith Nesbit Trail

Walk Four - Churches of New Mills

Walk Five - Parish Boundary Walk

Accessing the Torrs

Short Walk Around Historic New Mills. (With Spring Bank Arts, and New Mills Heritage and Information Centre)

These leaflets are downloadable from the website or copies can be obtained from New Mills Heritage and Information Centre on Rock Mill Lane.

Walks 2017

We changed the emphasis of our walks a little this year. We have concentrated on walks to look at specific elements.

Walk One - curlews and lapwings walk which Jeanne Daniels led in May.

Walk Two - a Wild Flower walk, led by Chris Jones aided by Rose

Walk Three - a guided tour around the listed buildings of Beard and Ollersett which Dave Dunford led as our contribution to New Mills Festival.

Additionally, Jon Cohen led two walks from Edale to New Mills over Kinder, having caught the train outward bound. One walk went via Edale Cross and the other by Crowden.

Each walk worked well, though Dave had more than enough to contend with as nearly 50 turned up for the walk he led.

One of our past walks also turned up in another guise as Mike Daniels converted his successful Festival Walk from last year into an even more successful talk which he gave to New Mills Local History Society - the topic being 'The Lost Pubs of New Mills.' Sadly, two further pubs have closed since Mike finished his talk - though one of these has re-opened.

Finally, building on the success of last year's 'Bat Evening', we held a 'Moth Evening' this year. Despite the evening being slightly colder than we would have liked, over twenty species of moth turned up, as did fourteen people. Among the more colourful moths seen were the Brimstone and the Copper Shouldered Thorn Moths.

Walks 2018

The programme for 2018 is still under development, but will build on 2017's successful approach to walks.

Amongst others, we hope to have another Wild Flower walk, a Dawn Chorus walk and a Lost Histories of New Mills walk, this latter being prepared for New Mills Festival Fortnight and will look at some of the buildings we have 'lost' over the years.

We are also hopeful of another walk over Kinder, and I know that a further walk involving public transport on the out leg has been under preparation.

We also have a family friendly walk coming up at the beginning of April - four muddy, fun miles. Further information will be published soon - see the website for more information.

As a side issue, we have also been busy preparing a 'Walks Leader Training Package' which is nearly complete and will be available for anyone to use. It will include a slide show, a set of teaching points and handouts. The slide show is a PowerPoint presentation.

Annual Review 2017

The national committee reviewed our annual report and we passed with flying colours again. Yet again, we have had to decline an invitation for our chairman to join the national committee as the pressure of other commitments is currently too great. This invitation should be seen as an indication of the standards that we are setting in New Mills Walkers are Welcome.

Work Parties 2017

During 2017 we ran seven work parties installing stiles, repairing steps, removing vegetation and overgrowth and installing wicket gates.

An example of our work can be found on the cobbled path that runs between High Street and Spring Bank. We cleared the cobbles of the weeds and rubbish that made the path difficult to walk, leaving it looking much more welcoming.

We will be running more work parties in 2018 -look out for our bright yellow high-vis vests around the parish. To find out when we will be running them, keep an eye on our website or our Facebook page. (See below.)

Keep your eyes on the New Mills Walkers are Welcome facebook page and website for information about future walks and work parties. We also post information about the Litterpickers and other organisations that might be of interest.

(Facebook Page can be found at New Mills Walkers are Welcome on www.facebook.com)

And suggestions or requests for walks, leaflets, work parties etc can be sent by email to our secretary at: mike.jeanne@hotmail.co.uk

If you want to join our mailing list, or make a donation to New Mills Walkers are Welcome through Paypal, please see our website for a link: www.nmwaw.org.uk