



## New Mills Walkers are Welcome

Newsletter September 2021



### Chairman's opening remarks

Well, that has been a very trying eighteen months for many of us, and a distinctly odd one for many people involved in the various groups associated with walking. Talking with other members of the WaW network and members of the Ramblers, as well as members of the public in general, we have all noticed an increased footfall on our paths as people have sought out quieter byways to walk for their exercise.

So there has been increased pressure on our footpaths, increasing the workload on the people who look after our footpath network at a time when the numbers of rangers has seen considerable reduction. The work of our footpath surveyors and our work parties are even more essential than ever, though to be honest I'd rather have a properly funded countryside service and reduced pressure on our band of volunteers.

We tried a couple of video walks to replace our normal programme of walks, and these were well received, accessible through our Facebook page. Both of these walks have also been turned into walks leaflets, which will be available shortly. (They will also be downloadable from the website shortly after publication.)

And there are a raft of other leaflets on the way, funded largely by Active Derbyshire, for which our thanks. More details of these below. Additionally, we've been revising our current leaflets to ensure their accuracy, and in one case to modernise.

Stay safe whilst you are out and about and here's hoping we meet up on a footpath somewhere soon.

Mike Daniels 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021

### New Leaflets Coming Soon:

The new leaflets fall into two distinct groups.

Group one can be classed as leaflets with a historical basis. Included in this section are the following titles :-

The Mills of New Mills

The Mills of Newtown

The Lost Pubs of New Mills

The Co-operative Society in New Mills

## **Leaflets (cont)**

We have also worked with Transition New Mills in the production of leaflets about the natural world. The first of these is entitled 'The Common Trees of Goytside Meadow and Mousley Bottom in Autumn.' The illustrations for this were created by Paul Gent and looks at the identifying features of the most common trees - their leaves, bark and seed. Thanks also go to Chris for her ideas and support in creating this work - the inspiration was hers. The leaflet will be available soon.

Another leaflet was the brainchild of Jill and produced in support of what we hope will be an annual event. Entitled 'Goytside Meadow Summer Nature Walk,' we look forward to taking part in this walk annually, looking at the wild flowers, trees, insects and birds of the Meadows.

Additionally, we produced several leaflets for one-off events. For example, for the Youth Festival, we were asked to lead a bug hunt. Assisted by Ranger Sarah, we created a 'treasure trail' type event and a leaflet to go alongside it, which proved very popular indeed with young people who took about 60 leaflets during the afternoon.

We also had a stall for one morning of 'One World on the Prom.' Again we produced a leaflet and a quiz - a picture quiz with twelve photographs of various locations around the town centre. Thanks to our secretary, Jeanne, for all her hard work in setting up the quiz. Again this proved very popular. Thanks also to John and Jane for helping out on the stall.

We may have an opportunity to use both of these 'temporary leaflets' another time so we have copies of them readily available.

## **Here's another idea that's brewing:**

What would you say to an annual get-together for supporters on New Mills Walkers are Welcome?

The proposal would be to meet up somewhere, have a short three mile stroll and then have a meal in a local hostelry.

It would probably mean a single course set menu, and a drink for a fixed price (around £20 mark probably) with the individual responsible for anything else they wanted to eat or drink.

You'd also be responsible for your own transport.

We have been looking at suitable venues as this will have a bearing on the walk as well.

Let us know what you think. Suggest locations. Nominate walker friendly pubs and restaurants..