

# WALKERS ARE WELCOME CIC

## MEMBERS' ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR JAN TO DEC 2023







Your Annual Return and subscription are both due by 31 January, 2024. **Please complete this report electronically and send it as a Word document to [secretary@walkersarewelcome.org.uk](mailto:secretary@walkersarewelcome.org.uk) by 31 January.** If you anticipate or experience any problems completing the Return and/or making your payment in time, please advise us as soon as possible.

To maintain your accreditation as a Walkers are Welcome town or village, it is essential that you show how you have met the criteria during the previous year by completing this Annual Return. Please answer every question and provide the fullest information; it is time to shout about your achievements. *The form expands to allow additional data.*

We are always looking for evidence that Walkers are Welcome members are making a difference in their communities and it is wonderful to learn of your successes and to share innovation across the network.

<b>Town or village name</b>	Bampton, Devon
<b>Name of group or organisation</b>	Bampton Heritage and Visitor Centre
<b>Population: Source of population figure?</b>	1600 Bampton Town Council
<b>Amount of payment due, see subscription below</b>	£50.00
<b>New Subscription paid</b>	Yes/not yet
<b>Date paid and how <u>or</u> date it will be paid</b>	Paid by Bampton Town Council
<b>Name of mentor</b>	Richard Craft

<b>Key to comment colours:</b>		<b>Well done, criteria met.</b>
		<b>Some concerns, your mentor will offer guidance and monitor progress.</b>
		<b>Criteria not met.</b>
<b>Mentor's feedback summary:</b>		<b>Overall Assessment</b>
<i>An excellent Annual Return which paints a very clear picture of your extensive walking related activities. For a small town you certainly punch above your weight.</i>		
<i>Thank you, Bampton is a great ambassador for WAW.</i>		

<p><b>Achievements &amp; innovation this year</b> Shout about your group's main achievements this year. Please include innovation and projects that go beyond the criteria that you are proud of.</p> <p><i>It's great that you have made such a valuable input to the Bampton Town Plan. Walkers - locals and visitors alike, stand to benefit from this initiative.</i></p> <p><i>You've done well to recruit two new walk leaders, they will certainly take pressure off the other leaders and will enhance the town's walking offer. Congratulations Judi on your accreditation!</i></p>	<p>Making visiting walkers welcome is very important to us and we have worked with 12 local businesses to produce a town plan. With the sponsorship from the businesses, we had 400 plans printed. These contain a main town plan, highlighting bus stops, eating places, shops and information on Bampton's history. Key walking routes, such as the Exe Valley Way are indicated, as well as car parking, toilets and water refresh points. These plans are available throughout town in shops and eating places and in the Visitor Centre.</p> <p>Recognising the potential pressures on personal finances we have used our community Facebook page to raise awareness of free, open access picnic spots within town for visiting walkers.</p> <p>Judi Thomas is now an accredited walk leader trainer which makes training easily managed within Bampton. We recruited 2 new walk leaders in 2023.</p>
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<p><b>The six criteria are:</b></p>	
<p><b>1. Demonstrate popular local support from the community and local businesses for the concept</b> Detail here how other groups or partners and residents you are working with have helped you to achieve your goals.</p> <p><i>You are getting really good numbers, on a regular basis, on your walks and are very lucky to have 12 accredited leaders for a small town.</i></p> <p><i>This is a clear demonstration of your status within the community and the fact the community values what you offer.</i></p> <p><i>Excellent work.</i></p>	<p>Our annual bank holiday walks are now well established and bookings are consistently good with an average of 8-10 walkers, whatever the weather. Our weekly Wellbeing Walks continue to thrive, with two walks every Monday come rain or shine. The feedback we get confirms that people get significant benefits from walking together every week. Records for the past 2.5 years show that we regularly have between 30-55 people walking each month. We have recruited two new walk leaders in 2023. In total we have 12 trained leaders who lead Wellbeing Walks and our bank holiday walks.</p> <p>We were represented by Judi on a small accessibility action group which held open community consultation events to find out the access needs of our community. These were well attended and gave us much information on the access needs of our community. Using the findings of these events has informed our plans, and achieved funding, for a second edition of the town plan – Accessible Bampton. This will include information of public transport, accessible parking and toilets. In addition, we will highlight those businesses and eating places which have taken extra steps to improve accessibility. This partnership with our local businesses and eating places has raised awareness of access issues for visitors as well as residents and resulted in improvements in 2023 at low or no cost. Bampton Town Council has been a key part of this work to improve accessibility.</p>
<p><b>2. Demonstrate that the local council formally endorses the application for Walkers are Welcome status.</b> This would have been originally demonstrated by the local council (Town, Parish or Community Council) passing a resolution in support, being represented on the steering group, and making a financial contribution</p>	<p>Judi attends Bampton Town Council meetings to present updates, developments and achievements. The annual subscription is paid for by the Town Council. The accessibility consultation events have been attended and endorsed by town councillors.</p> <p>Bampton Town Council is committed to promoting Bampton to visitors recognising the benefits to the whole local economy.</p>

<p>where possible. How has this developed in the current year?</p>	<p><i>Really good work in keeping the TC informed and up to date with developments.</i></p>
<p><b>3. Demonstrate a commitment that the local public path network will be maintained in good condition.</b>  This might be ensuring that all the local paths were walked in the last year and problems reported to the relevant authority (or landowner in Scotland) whilst checking that faults are rectified and/or reporting the actions which your own maintenance team have undertaken.</p> <p><i>Fantastic maintenance programme. Keeping the pathways clear and accessible in the 'bread and butter' work of WAW.</i></p>	<p>Two new P3 wardens have been appointed and are given information from weekly wellbeing walk leaders when an issue arises. BHVC volunteers work with the P3 wardens to walk local paths as part of the annual audit. The work undertaken in 2023 to maintain the local path network in good and improved condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bampton has a dedicated foot paths email address which can be used to report problems with public rights of way in the parish (footpaths@bamptoncouncil.gov.uk) This email address is advertised on the Bampton website.</li> <li>• Two new restricted byways have been created and included in our annual survey (BW26&amp;27)</li> <li>• ROWs have been strimmed where necessary.</li> <li>• Damaged stile agreed to be replaced by new gate.(FP7). This required negotiation with the landowner.</li> <li>• A ROW has been widened by cutting back the hedge which is along a large part of it. (FP9)</li> <li>• A part of a tree fallen blocking a ROW has been cutup and removed. Also a finger post on this ROW has been cleaned to make it legible. (FP2)</li> <li>• A large amount of undergrowth, mostly brambles, have been removed and the gate repaired. (FP3)</li> <li>• Rotten gate post replaced with metal one. (FP12)</li> </ul>

<p><b>4. Demonstrate that there is adequate marketing of the town's Walkers are Welcome status.</b></p> <p>This can be demonstrated in several ways: for example, online presence, press coverage; signs/map in the centre of town advising visitors of walks they can undertake; waymarked walks starting from the town centre; leaflets readily available; local shops encouraged to display Walkers are Welcome stickers.</p> <p><i>Good coverage and promotion of WAW.</i></p>	<p>Our Facebook page, BHVC and town website continue to highlight and promote our Walkers are Welcome status. The new town plan carries the WaW logo. Our posts are frequently liked by WaW groups and admin.</p> <p>We continue to run two guided walks each bank holiday and this resulted in walks across the year in 2023 for local residents and visitors. We use the town website and the Visit Mid Devon website for publicity and booking arrangements. These walks include showing and talking about important aspects of local heritage and the environment. Our pattern of annual walks is now well known in the area and we see a good number of walkers returning each bank holiday.</p> <p>The Heritage and Visitor Centre and local shops and eating places display WaW stickers.</p> <p>Our partnership with Visit Mid Devon (part of the Mid Devon District Council) is strong and allows us to promote WaW to a wider audience and use of a range of marketing media to promote Bampton as a walkers' destination.</p>
<p><b>5. Demonstrate how the town encourages the use of public transport.</b></p> <p>This can be demonstrated, for example, by including clear public transport advice on marketing leaflets or lobbying for improvements.</p>	<p>The new town plan indicates bus stops. Bampton Heritage and Visitor Centre (BHVC) and the town website have links to bus timetables. BHVC and Bampton Community group have used their Facebook page to highlight local campaigns on bus use to maintain local services.</p> <p><i>Do you have any walks that use public transport to access the start of the walk?</i></p>
<p><b>6. Demonstrate the mechanisms in place to maintain Walkers are Welcome status.</b></p> <p>This can be demonstrated through having a well-balanced and committed Walkers are Welcome steering group from within the community.</p> <p>Please list your current committee or organisation members and state how their roles support the group continuing.</p>	<p>BHVC Trustees, Wellbeing Walks Leaders, and P3 wardens all work together to maintain the town status.</p> <p><i>You clearly have a strong and committed group of people keeping things going. I know there is a strong history of walking in Bampton, but it's great that you are able to sustain this. Excellent!</i></p>
<p><b>Records Update – Website Profile</b></p> <p>Please confirm here that you have checked that your profile entry on the national website is complete and up to date, including a photograph, and that the contacts shown are correct. If they are not, please note here updates required and say when this will be corrected.</p>	<p>The website profile has been updated and all is correct.</p> <p><i>Yes, all OK, thank you.</i></p>

<p><b>Priorities 2024</b> It is important each year to review the previous year's achievements and equally to think about the year ahead. Please indicate your specific plans/priorities for the following year.</p> <p><i>This sounds a very achievable set of priorities. It's good to see you spreading the WAW word wider than Bampton with the VMD Festival.</i></p>	<p>We are in partnership with Visit Mid Devon in planning a Mid Devon Festival in September 2024. We are leading a number of guided walks and wellbeing walks during the festival fortnight and will benefit from the VMD promotion of the Mid Devon event.</p> <p>We participate in Heritage Open Days each year – September – and the theme for 2024 is Routes, Networks and Connections. We plan to highlight each of those aspects with an exhibition of maps dating back to an original tithe map of 1700s and more recent maps to draw people in. We will publicise our status and local walks to promote Bampton as a walkers' destination.</p>
<p><b>National Executive Committee:</b> We always welcome your feedback. Here is an opportunity. We also encourage participation in WaW national events and activities - please let us know of anything you have done this year. <b>Please make your suggestions here.</b></p>	

#### Declaration

- **We wish to apply for continued status as a Walkers are Welcome town/village.**
- **We will pay our annual subscription to Walkers are Welcome in January.**

#### Membership Subscription rates 2024

Based on population

Up to 3,000	£ 50
3,001 - 8,000	£ 70
8,001 - 15,000	£ 90
Over 15,000	£110

Send your payment to The Treasurer, 1 Murray Close, Pocklington, York, YO42 2HD.

Please make sure that cheques are payable to *Walkers are Welcome Towns Network*.

If you wish to pay directly to Bank, the details are:

Account No:	06000835
Name of Account:	Walkers are Welcome Towns Network
Sort Code:	80-09-11
Name of Bank:	Bank of Scotland

We hope that you will not need an invoice, but should you require one, please contact The Treasurer [treasurer@walkersarewelcome.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@walkersarewelcome.org.uk). Please note that if your subscription is being paid by an external body which wants an invoice, it is for you to issue that invoice, not us, giving the above information to enable payment.

<b>Name:</b>	Judi Thomas
<b>Position:</b>	Chairman

E-mail:	bamptonheritage@btinternet.com
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**THANK YOU**

**REMEMBER, WE ARE ALWAYS HERE TO HELP –**

Please email the Secretary [secretary@walkersarewelcome.org.uk](mailto:secretary@walkersarewelcome.org.uk) or your Mentor for assistance at any time

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