

DFBS NEWS

September 2022

Hello Walkers!

As we have come to the end of the Summer Programme, and move into the first part of the Winter Warmer Walks session, and the impending Annual Meeting, it's time for a Newsletter.....

Peter Hubbard was this year's Summer Walks Coordinator....Jane Smith had done this for the previous three years....and we hope that Pete will do (at least!) another two after this very successful one. Here is what he has to say:

“When I took on the job of coordinating the summer walks programme I was a little apprehensive to begin with as I am quite new to the group. Nevertheless I thought it would be a good way to become more involved and I soon realised that there is always plenty of help and guidance available. Special thanks to all the walk leaders who put forward their walks with virtually no arm twisting or bribery needed.

We put on 28 walks during the summer period comprising morning walks on Saturdays and Tuesdays and evening walks on Thursdays with lengths varying between 3 and 7 miles, Although most walks were within the Dronfield area we occasionally ventured further afield to locations in Sheffield, Chesterfield and the Peak District, such as Cutthorpe, Shillito Woods, Bakewell and Longshaw. Mixed in with our regular walks we included some that were themed including historical walks a dawn chorus walk, the end of season pie and pea supper walk and the “this is not a pub crawl walk” The walks were well attended with between 15 and 20 people on most of them. It was particularly pleasing to have some new members joining in with us.

I welcome any feedback on the summer

program particularly with regard to walk distance, difficulty and location. Your views will help us to offer the best mixture of walks in future programs.”

As one of the walk leaders, many of you will have been on my regular walks: the ‘Not Really a Pub Crawl Walk’ and the ‘5 Ponds Walk’. Yes, there are many other routes I could plan, but these two suit me....and there can always be slight variations. Indeed, the August “5 Ponder” was walked in an anti-clockwise direction, and this change makes quite a difference, not only to the views on offer, but also the ups and downs...I have Map My Walk on my phone, which records the route map, distance and speed...similar to the Strava app....and on my laptop is www.footpathmap.co.uk, a great site for finding all sorts of routes etc...

Wednesday 2nd November

7.00pm for 7.30pm Our Annual General Meeting is at Dronfield Civic Hall. All members are encouraged to attend...

An illustrated talk will follow the business part, which will be given by Sally Moseley, and entitled “**From Out of the Dark**”. (Dark Peak/White Peak)

Jobs up for grabs...

No only do we need new walk leaders, we need a new Secretary and a new Treasurer. We could also do with a new Webmaster. I have been doing this for quite a few years, and it now needs a new person to take over. We have a very helpful man who hosts it, so the job is straightforward.. Adrian has been i/c finances for years....all the help is there for someone to take this on...None of the posts are onerous, but fresh faces keep the Association vibrant and lively. We hold the occasional meetings in the Green Dragon...so meetings are always friendly and lively..Hic!

I asked Paula Merryman, one of our newer walk leaders, to write a piece: this is from her:

Leading walks

Thinking about leading a walk? Have a favourite walk you'd like to share with us? It's not as scary as it might sound, be brave and let us enjoy a walk in your company.

I led my first walk 6 months ago, and since then led 2 more, with 3 more planned for the future. The first walk I choose to lead was a walk that I was very familiar with and also familiar at that particular time of year (December). That said, having checked the walk a couple of days before, I slightly altered route as one particular path was very wet and muddy We should have done this path at the end of the walk, I chose to do it first so that our boots would clean throughout the walk and not end with muddy boots the plan worked a treat!

During lockdown, Richard shared with us on the Facebook page, the "footpathmap.co.uk" website, looking at this I found my second walk as you may know, I have several dogs, I love nothing more than a walk that has very little road work this was exactly that, follow a path, cross a road, next path etc. Having first checking it out with a couple of the dogs I decided I'd like to share it with you all and led this walk in June.

Today I have been on a 1st recce to check out a walk I have planned for November so the first thing to consider is car parking I get there today to discover that the relatively small car park has (at this moment in time) partly been taken over by the council whilst doing some nearby roadworks!! I set off on the walk and am looking out along the way the type of paths mainly all good, general terrain a couple of places to check out as we get more wet weather, anything that might potentially be unsafe, amount of stiles a couple, gates a few, but easy to open and any livestock non today. I used strava to plot my walk to check out the mileage and the time taken (although when finishing the strava route, it will come up with a time you were moving) and when I got home set a copy of the map to Graham (as he is compiling the winter program), with my comments regarding car parking and a couple of possible other parking

possibilities that might be an improved option. *Just a few pointers then for planning and leading your first walk*

Check it out initially if it's not a walk you do regularly

Check it out again the week leading up to the planned walk day maybe have "diversional" routes planned if there's an area that might be under water, cows and calves out in a field etc

Check out distance and timing I always allow more time for the group that it took me alone

Agree a meeting place, check out car parking

On the day of the walk

Arrive promptly

Briefly explain where the walk will be going

Count up how many of "us" there are we don't want to lose anyone

Either allocate someone to the back of the group, or be aware who is at the back Pacing – we all walk at slightly different rates but so long as the group waits for everyone to catch up at intervals (and particularly before you change direction) that's fine.

The other thing to consider depending on the length of the walk Will you be taking a break? if so where?

I have loved leading the few walks that I have done so far, but everyone has their own ideas of their "best" walks please consider sharing your walks with us. Variety is the spice of life Isn't that what they say?

Paula and the dogs

And finally.....

So...that's about it for another newsletter....

Big thanks to Karen 'Kazza' Brightmore for her years as Secretary and Adrian as Treasurer...thanks to those on the committee who have taken the various tasks on, ongoing thanks to Graham Gill for setting up the Winter Warmer walks.....Thanks also to John Ellis for a sole-searching quiz after the pie and pea walk..and of course thanks to the walk leaders.....and most of all, thanks you to you, the walkers, because without you, we would be leading nobody!

Oh, thanks to me, Richard Smith, for putting this together!!!!