

WALKERS ARE WELCOME CIC

MEMBERS' ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR JAN TO DEC 2022



Your Annual Return and subscription are both due by 31 January. **Please complete this report electronically and send it as a Word document to 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.

Town or village name	Bampton
Name of group or organisation	Bampton Heritage and Visitor Centre
Population: Source of population figure?	1600 estimate awaiting full 2021 census data.
Amount of payment due, see subscription below	£50
New Subscription paid	Yes
Date paid and how or date it will be paid	15/01/2023 by BACS from Bampton Town Council
Name of mentor	Richard Craft

Key to comment colours:	 Well done, criteria met.
	 Some concerns, your mentor will offer guidance and monitor progress.
	 Criteria not met.
Mentor's feedback summary:	Overall Assessment

<p>Achievements & innovation this year 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>Launch event in August well attended and social media and press coverage with a photo with the WaW banner.</p> <p>Consolidation of our newly achieved status with a focus on WaW at the annual Bampton Charter Fair.</p> <p>New self-guided 5 Churches trail, encompassing the churches within our local mission.</p> <p>Feature article commissioned by Exmoor News on a new self-guided railway themed town trail.</p> <p>Status highlighted in a podcast on Bampton by Exmoor Character Cottages.</p>
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The six criteria are:	
<p>1. Demonstrate popular local support from the community and local businesses for the concept Detail here how other groups or partners and residents you are working with have helped you to achieve your goals.</p>	<p>Wellbeing Walks – weekly walks continue to develop. Three new leaders were recruited in 2022 and membership continues to grow. The circular walks start and end in the centre of Bampton. The meeting place for the circular walks is accessible by public transport. The social and mental wellbeing benefits of weekly walks is important to walkers.</p> <p>ROW: wellbeing walk-leaders identify any issues on walking routes and footpaths and report to the P3 co-ordinator. This</p>

	<p>provides additional vigilance.</p> <p>Heritage interest: BHVC's heritage talk in 2022 was called From Legs to Wheels and began with exploration of our local ROW and the importance of routes that were navigable by foot. The talk is now available on YouTube. With these additional heritage aspects we aim to attract more walkers to Bampton.</p> <p>Local businesses: local shop front businesses display the Walkers are Welcome and advertised our walking events through 2022.</p>
<p>2. Demonstrate that the local council formally endorses the application for Walkers are Welcome status.</p> <p>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 where possible. How has this developed in the current year?</p>	<p>Bampton Town Council and the councillor who was on the original steering group receives updates on activities.</p> <p>Town Councillors were present at the official launch of Walkers are Welcome status in August.</p> <p>Bampton Town Council pays the annual subscription.</p>
<p>3. Demonstrate a commitment that the local public path network will be maintained in good condition.</p> <p>This might be ensuring that the local ROWs were all walked last year and problems reported to the relevant authority whilst checking that faults are rectified and/or, what actions have your own maintenance team undertaken this year?</p>	<p>The local ROW are all walked every year, with this activity co-ordinated by the P3 leader who is a member of the steering group and leads the P3 volunteers.</p> <p>A commitment to improving accessibility is ongoing. When existing stiles are no longer in an acceptable condition the P3 leader negotiates with the landowner and local authority to replace the stiles with accessible gates. Two gates have replaced stiles in 2022, bringing the total of new gates to 10. The wellbeing walk leaders identify any issues with ROW on weekly walks and report to P3 leader. This has improved the frequency of monitoring and subsequent maintenance. The maintenance team has cleared ROW of debris after autumn and winter storms.</p>
<p>4. Demonstrate that there is adequate marketing of the town's Walkers are Welcome status.</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>Visibility: BHVC includes Walkers are Welcome status on its webpages, and WaW has a specific page on the main Bampton town website.</p> <p>WaW logo features on all BHVC posts on our Facebook and Instagram platforms and WaW are tagged in these posts. The logo is used in all walks posters and publicity and displayed in the Heritage and Visitor Centre.</p> <p>We used the WaW banner for our status launch in August with photo and short piece in Tiverton Gazette and local parish magazine.</p> <p>WaW was the focus of the BHVC street stall during Bampton Charter Fair. Information available included maps, local ROW, walking routes with leaflets and pictures.</p> <p>We are subscribed to and work closely with Mid Devon District Council's Visit Mid Devon tourism initiative to publicise our status and local walks.</p> <p>Photos and reports of wellbeing walks are posted on Facebook on a weekly basis.</p> <p>We submit articles and photos to the local parish magazine and Devon Live to raise awareness and generate interest.</p>
<p>5. Demonstrate how the town encourages the use of public transport.</p> <p>This can be demonstrated, for example, by including clear public transport advice on marketing leaflets or lobbying for improvements.</p>	<p>Information on public transport is available in BHVC and on its Visitor Information webpage. Bus timetables are available in paper format in locations through the town.</p> <p>Public transport is via the Tourist Information link on the WaW webpage of the town website.</p>
<p>6. Demonstrate the mechanisms in</p>	<p>BHVC includes the original steering group members in an</p>

<p>place to maintain Walkers are Welcome status.</p> <p>This can be demonstrated through having a well-balanced and committed WALKERS ARE WELCOME steering group from within the community. Please list your current committee or organisation members and state how their roles support the group continuing.</p>	<p>overarching group. The current membership is: Judi Thomas – BHVC Chairman and Wellbeing Walks co-ordinator and trained walk leader Rachel Macdonald – BHVC Trustee and creator of walk leaflets and trained walk leader Chris Price – secretary of BHVC and wellbeing walk leader who posts photos of walks and upcoming events on Facebook Wendy Boothroyd – trained wellbeing walk leader and co-creator of walk booklets for Bampton and neighbouring Dulverton Joan and Colin Fagg – P3 co-ordinators Marian Girling – BHVC Trustee and administrator for guided walks and walking events. Laura Grant – local parent and business owner.</p>
<p>Records Update – Website Profile</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 profile entry has been checked and updated. Contacts shown are correct.</p>
<p>Priorities 2023</p> <p>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>BHVC will be running three free walk day events in 2023 which will be widely advertised.</p> <p>New walks information: we will produce new single circular route walks for visitors who have limited time for walking. New self-guided and lead themed town trails to encourage visitors and residents to walk around the town and vicinity and learn while walking.</p> <p>BHVC intends to raise its visitor information profile and activity and this will include a focus on Bampton as a WaW town and must visit destination.</p> <p>Raise the profile of WaW: We will continue to work with Visit Mid Devon (Mid Devon District Council) to highlight our walking opportunities for residents and visitors through 2023. This co-ordinated approach for the area will add to the appeal of Mid Devon as a walking destination.</p> <p>Wildlife warden partnership: the chairman is a member of a newly established group of adult and junior wardens, with expert support from Devon Wildlife Trust, and support from Bampton Town Council. This group is working to establish wildlife corridors through the town with information signs which will feature WaW logo.</p>
<p>National Committee:</p> <p>We always welcome your feedback. Here is an opportunity. Please make your suggestions here.</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.**

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

Membership Subscription

Based on population

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

Should you require an invoice for the exact amount, please contact The Treasurer treasurer@walkersarewelcome.org.uk.

Name:	Judi Thomas
Position:	Chairman, Bampton Heritage and Visitor Centre
E-mail:	bamptonheritage@btinternet.com

THANK YOU

REMEMBER, WE ARE ALWAYS HERE TO HELP –

Please email the Secretary secretary@walkersarewelcome.org.uk or your Mentor for assistance at any time

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