



Dereham Walkers are Welcome

1 August 2017

Dereham Walkers are Welcome is proud to report the receipt by Ken Hawkins of a Citizen's Award from Dereham Town Council. The award, made by the Mayor of Dereham, Hilary Bushell, was given to Ken in recognition of his work as voluntary Footpath Warden for the Town Council since 2013. In making her speech, Hilary referred to his work in reporting to the Council, in actively clearing public rights of way around the town, and in working with the County Council, landowners and others to ensure that Dereham's paths are always in good order.

Hilary also noted that Ken had been much involved in setting up the *Dereham Walkers are Welcome* group itself, which achieved national accreditation for the town just over 12 months ago. (*Walkers are Welcome*¹ is a nationwide initiative of over 100 locations, launched in 2007 to encourage towns and villages to be 'welcoming to walkers'.)

Although he received the Award in his capacity as Footpath Warden, Ken is the first to acknowledge the support he has had from others - as in most successful ventures, it is the combined effort of many which brings results. In this case, support has come from four main sources.

- Ken's wife Catherine has provided both technical and physical support, and is usually to be seen alongside him during path clearance and other work.

- The Town Council has strongly encouraged the Footpath Warden's activity, and supported it through the provision of a number of tools to assist clearance work.
- The Ramblers have provided assistance when the scale of clearance needed has exceeded the scope of the Footpath Warden's hand tools, making available their brush cutter on a number of occasions.
- *Dereham Walkers are Welcome* colleagues have worked as a committed team to embrace the Footpath Warden's work, and take it further.

Keeping paths clear for everyone to use has enabled *Walkers are Welcome* to arrange a number of public walks. The next one will take place on Bank Holiday Monday 28 August and will be 7¼ miles long, taking about 3 hours (but can also be reduced to 5¼ miles for anyone wanting a shorter walk). As has become normal for our walks, the ticket price (£6.50 on this occasion) includes a drink and piece of cake at the end of the walk, at Yaxham Waters. Full details (and much, much more) are on our website www.DerehamWaW.org.uk, or you can contact Ken via dtc.fpwarden@talktalk.net or on 07505 426750.

NOTE to editor

¹ Walkers are Welcome (www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk/) aims to encourage and support towns and villages to

- be attractive destinations for walkers with top quality information on local walks
- offer local people and visitors excellent walking opportunities within their areas
- ensure that footpaths and facilities for walkers are maintained, improved and well signposted
- contribute to local tourism plans and regeneration strategies
- promote the health benefits of walking and increase participation
- encourage the use of public transport