Christmas group walk and drinks event Sunday 19th December. Great Bedwyn Village Hall

A great turnout of 24 walkers left the village hall at 10.00am and walked up to Bedwyn Brail from Brook St. In the Brail, at Castle Copse, we turned right and down to Brail Farm through a new kissing gate. This was the first kissing gate that our group installed in September, replacing a rickety old wooden stile, and the improvement was appreciated by the group. They now didn't have to climb any stiles on this route! At the road, by Brail Farm we turned for home through the water meadow and along the towpath.

A group of other members, who had been unable to walk with us, and willing helpers were waiting back at the hall and had laid on a fantastic spread of refreshments donated by members. Delicious warm mulled wine and other warm drinks were served.

This Christmas event was able to go ahead under Covid government restrictions current at the time but we asked members to take a few extra precautions: a lateral flow test on the morning before coming, to bring a mask to wear in the hall, and to use hand sanitiser. The room was thoroughly ventilated but members were encouraged to take their refreshments outside the hall. The weather was thankfully dry and mild so we were able to gather outside without too much discomfort. Although recent rain had made our walking route very wet and slippery.

The kind contributions of members to the refreshments and raffle meant that all costs of the event were covered, with a little left over towards our next event. Considering the extent of the spread of the virus at the time, with the Omicron variant causing havoc, the event was incredibly well supported with a group of over 30 attending, including a visit from Susie Brew of Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership and Dawn Wilson of Pewsey Vale Community Partnership joining us. They thanked the group for their support of the footpaths network and also their support of the successful bid for Walkers are Welcome accreditation.