

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION: BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2011
AT MAGNOLIA PARK SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB, HIGH WYCOMBE (TO BE APPROVED)

Present (23): Dee Brockway (Social Walks Secretary), Gill Bunker, Eric Cartwright, Steve Clark, Norman Corrin (Secretary), David Findel-Hawkins, Mike Hyland, Sandra Hyland, Malcolm Howse, Merrian Lancaster, Martin Lawson, John Ledger, Josephine Pettifer, Ian Sage, Pat Sage, Nigel Schofield (Chairman), Gordon Shaughnessy, Betty Sherry, Peter Simon, Pearl Smith, Steve Smith, Dave Yorston, Lynn Yorston

Guest: Kathy LoRaso

The meeting commenced at 2.20 p.m.

Nigel welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

1. Apologies

David & Karen Anderson, Graham Bayes, Mike Bowley, Chris Burns, Teresa Brown, Jackie Burnett, John Chesher, John Davies, Sybil Davies, Sylvie Eames, Frankie Goldspink, Brian Graves, Phil Hastings, David & Gill Heron, Don Jeffreys, Brian Layton, Adrian Moody, Roger & Jane O'Dea, Jim Morrison, John Nickerson, Roy & Janet Presland, Chris Slann, Ria Sonder, Roger Story, Dianne Sutton, Jan Williams

2. Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes, having previously been circulated, were accepted as a true record with no matters arising.
Prop: Dave Yorston, Sec: Merrian Lancaster.

3. Officers' Reports

(a) Chairman – Nigel Schofield's report

Nigel summarised his report, which was also circulated:

Welcome to the 2011 AGM. I hope that you all enjoyed the walk this morning and that those who had lunch here at Magnolia Sports Centre are suitably refreshed and content. I would like to thank Dave Yorston on your behalf for leading the walk this morning and for organising the luncheon with Lynn, and thank Norman for organising the AGM today.

The past year whilst so successful in many ways was marred by the loss of Charles Francis in September after a long illness. As a fellow BBNer I found his company on a walk thought provoking and invigorating, he was so patient with my 'agricultural and land management' questions and of course a tremendous sense of humour and laugh. He will be missed. Thanks to the club members who attended the thanksgiving service on Monday 26th September, probably over 200 friends and relations at the service which reflected in no small measure his life and friendships. Should you be on a BBN walk and Clare is there, please do your utmost to continue the BBN welcome and good craic.

Also, you may not be aware that another long standing BBN member has joined LDWA in heaven. John Seed died on 18th March 2011 (obit BBN Newsletter June 2011). What an athletic gentlemen he was, and I was very impressed when I met him in the Lakes in 2009 to hear of his exploits and riding 250 miles from Milton Keynes to join us – he will be missed by his friends in BBN and the athletics world in particular.

We have had three Committee resignations this year, viz. Steve Clark who was the BBN Webmaster from 2005 to 2010 and the BBN Newsletter Editor from 2008 to 2011 and from John Nickerson who was the BBN Treasurer from 2006 to 2011. And of course not forgetting Kevin Lamming – notably Newsletter printing and distribution to members. Our thanks go to the three 'gentlemen' for their commitment to the club, without this support we would perhaps not have such a successful club as we do.

Welcome to Merrian Lancaster for joining the Committee as webmaster and to Dave F-H for tackling the membership listings – great work and improvements from both – thanks very much.

Mention must also be made of the unstinting effort made by John Nickerson in organising the Shillington Shuffle from 1991 to 2000 (reborn this year) and the Steppingley Step from 2001 to 2010 – a great effort which was celebrated last year at Barton with the presentation of a rose that we hope will bloom in BBN colours.

This is my fifth annual report to the BBN and looking back at the last twelve months pride of place must go to those on the Committee, Challenge Event organisers and Social Walks Leaders. As in previous years we have had another very full programme of walks and this year two weekends away – the Cotswolds and Derbyshire, thanks to the Nickersons and the Bents from all of us. It never ceases to amaze me each how we fitted in the Challenge Events and Social Walks that were so ably organised and led by your fellow members. Reports on the Challenge Events and Social Walks will be presented later on the agenda. We in BBN owe an immense debt of gratitude to the organisers of the Challenge Walks and those who marshalled. This year we had a very wet Chiltern Kanter and a dry day for the resurrected Shillington Shuffle – record numbers? (several new marshals seen on the Marshals' Walk – thank you). Walkers and runners come from many parts for our challenge events due to the excellent organisation, route descriptions and sustenance. As ever, if the usual suspects did not volunteer the events would not take place. We also assisted the London Group on the 2011 Founders Challenge. I did the Event itself this year – glorious day and a demanding route. If you have not ventured to Peaslake before it is well worth the trip and a three course meal at the end. Next year the Founders will be the London Group celebrating the LDWA 40th anniversary walk on 14th October.

This year your Chairman led a social walk year from Princes Risborough (revised to clockwise). A few more than last year and an extra mile or two and weather was good. It was as ever good to meet and greet new members and friends on the social and challenge walks that I was able to attend. I hope that you will enjoy the 2012 programme that Dee is co-ordinating for you. We will always need new leaders and new walks – have a chat with Dee and she will find you a 'free' Sunday or Thursday. Don't forget Wenceslas from Winslow on 11th December, Santa will be there!

Repeated heartfelt congratulations to those who completed the Housman 100 this year, (congratulations to Brian Harwood and Paul Flynn for completing 10) the first timers – pity about the rain for those who saw the second dawn on Monday, commiseration to those who did not complete. And thank you to the BBNers who marshalled at Check Point 1 (al fresco), some of whom were novice check pointers. Also to the intrepid BBN campers at Check point 8 – Bridges – well done. I went to help London Group at CP 6 Mainstone from 19.30 until 0230 on the Sunday morning. As I mentioned in my report last year, until you see at first hand what the walkers/runners overcome and how some marshals stay awake all hours, the 100 remains a mystery to many of us who including me cannot envisage walking a 100 miles. Besides quite a lot of social walks, two marshals challenges and about five or six other Challenges including the Smugglers Trod and Sidmouth Saunter (on my 62nd birthday), my major event for 2011 was the Wellington Boot in April, pleased to say I completed in a reasonable time and that made the SW Triple Challenge, and congratulations to those who completed, fantastic weather all weekend and walking by moonlight with my shadows at 03.30 was an incredible experience. My walk report was in the June Newsletter.

One of my appointments at the 2006 AGM was to be the LDWA local groups representative for BBN. This year I attended the weekend at Haworth in West Yorkshire, 21 reps from Local Groups. A very good walk on the Saturday sandwiched between two very cloudy and misty days. All Bronte countryside and tourist traps everywhere and would you believe it The Pennine Way finger post had Japanese script as well! I attach the minutes from the meeting on the items raised and a statement on the 'health' of LDWA from Paul Lawrence.

Next year the London Games 100 will be a linear event commencing in Victoria Park near the Olympic Park and finishing at Windsor, via Olympic sites and locations associated with the Founders of the LDWA. BBN are hosting CP 3 at Mottingham Scout Hut, and as ever all offer of assistance to Norman (he is very busy at the moment with the entries for next year) and if you would like something a little more out of the norm (no pun intended) then I would love to hear from you if you hold a full driving licence. Many thanks to Andrew Gilbertson, Gill Howe and Martin Lawson for joining the Transport Team.

There will be an LDWA calendar for 2012 issued with December 2011 Strider (28 November issued) and a 40th Anniversary Strider published next November. All the Local Groups are urged to think of how they will celebrate the 40th Anniversary next year.

I would like to thank all Members of the Committee for their support in the last 12 months. And finally on behalf of all BBNers I wish to propose a vote of thanks to Norman for his support and enthusiasm as your Group Secretary and to Dee as Social Walks Secretary– we would be lost without them and many thanks to the other Committee Members.

I look forward with everyone to a great walking year in 2012. The Olympic Race Walking events are in and out of the London Royal Parks and apart from the finish are free events for spectators. I am pleased to stand for re-election as your Chairman for 2011/2012 and if appointed would be honoured to be your Chairman and 'Challenge event gofer' for the ensuing year.

As always 'please think what you could do for BBN and not necessarily what the BBN can do for you' and don't forget 'to have a great day out on a walk with BBN'.

There were no questions following Nigel's report.

(b) Secretary - Norman Corrin's report

Norman read his report which was also circulated:

Last year I started my report by mentioning that the Xmas Carol Ding Dong Merrily on High could have referred to the two weddings of BBN members, namely Steve and Pearl and John and Judy.

The getting hitched theme for BBN continued into 2011 and on the first occasion it followed a pirate theme. In pirate movies X marks the spot for hidden booty but it also symbolises a kiss. Thus it was in February Chris Bent married his treasure Frances Craven in secret and after a 3 day sabbatical in the Lake District continued the honeymoon on the Winter Poppyline 50! The first we knew of this was when Chris announced that he and his new wife had enjoyed cooking the group a meal in Hartington Youth Hostel. Everyone who knew had kept it a secret and the rest of us were absolutely delighted to hear the news.

The second wedding of the year was the marriage of Graham Busch and Jill in July where Paul Keech a fellow BBN member was the best man. We wish both couples much happiness in their married life. However none of them so far have produced a BBN bouncing baby! As Bruce Forsyth (now a Sir) used to write in his notes on the Generation Game "must try harder".

The light entertainment theme continued at this year's Housman 100 when Dee Brockway auditioned for Strictly Come Dancing. This was after 47hrs and 5 mins when she completed her third LDWA 100 by doing the Hokey Cokey with Mike Childs and Vivien Pike just before the finish. Looking at these photos of the finish brought home how much effort she and all the finishers of the Housman had put in to overcome (at times) merciless climbs and lack of nutrition at some checkpoints.

Congratulations must also go to Paul Flynn and Brian Harwood who both received their 10th LDWA 100 award. Thanks also to those BBN members who gave up their time to help on BBN's Checkpoint 1, which at that point was by far the best checkpoint on the event!

There has been a lot of debate and controversy over the 100 this year with complaints about insufficient food and the route being too tough. Wiser heads than ours have debated on the LDWA website forum and at National Committee level about the event but we should always bear in mind that we are not professional event organisers but volunteers putting on walks for the hobby and Association that we all enjoy. It's very easy to criticise but it takes a lot of work by dedicated amateurs to organise these events. If anyone thinks they can do better then feel free to volunteer. *(Much supportive applause from the meeting.)*

Work continues apace on next year's Games 100. It promises to be a unique 100 starting near the Olympic Stadium, passing the Post Office in Peaslake where Chris Steer placed his advert for fellow like-minded walkers

and ending along the Long Walk in Windsor. Martin Lawson summed up the 100 quite rightly. "Its 48 hours of non-stop entertainment".

Unfortunately this year has also seen the passing on of several LDWA members to the great outdoors in the sky, namely John Seed in April, Rita Howse in July and Charles Frances in September. Charles was a person who made an impression on everyone he met and all of us who knew him were indeed blessed. The memorial service was well attended by BBN members and Clare bravely stood up to bid her final farewell to Charles. At the end of the service the congregation broke into a spontaneous round of applause. Since then she has been on several recces and on the Shillington Shuffle showing a great deal of fortitude.

As normal our Social Walks Secretary Dee has excelled herself in producing a varied social walks programme and persuading several new members to lead social walks for the first time. She'll explain in greater detail about the programme.

Gordon Shaughnessy, Steve Clark and I ventured to the Castlebar 4 Days walks in Ireland. Suffice it to say that the Guinness really does taste different to the stuff served over here and that Steve had such a good time he told us he got lost every night getting back to our flat!

The group had two weekends away. The first in the Peak District in March at a well appointed independent hostel in Hartington was organised by Chris and Frances. The second was the traditional excellent August Bank Holiday weekend trip organised by John and Judy, this year starting from Stroud in the Cotswolds. This took in some magnificent scenery and apart from the occasional shower on each day we were very lucky with the weather.

All good things must come to an end however (apart from income tax!) and John and Judy have decided that they wish to step down from organising these weekends.

Sadly John has also decided to step down as Treasurer. Without his efforts over the years the group would not have had the Shillington Shuffle or the Steppingley Step which really did put the group on the challenge event map. In addition to these two events John also completed 25 consecutive 100s, led numerous social walks, checkpointed on all BBN events and organised the Thursday walks programme. He was also nominated to be one of the LDWA representatives to be an Olympic torch bearer. He was only beaten to it by Ann Sayer who is one of the LDWA elite. That goes to show how highly esteemed John is throughout the Association. We owe him an incalculable debt of gratitude and for that reason have awarded John BBN Life membership. This is the highest honour the group can bestow and will save him the princely sum of £1 per year!

"Allo my darlings" Steve Clark has also decided to step down from editing the Newsletter. Steve's efforts throughout the years during committee meetings have helped to alleviate matters when they became too serious or heated and his ready wit on social walks has helped to pass many a mile with much hilarity. His efforts in setting up the BBN website saved us from a very tricky situation at the time and he is always ready to tell people about the LDWA and BBN in particular.

Kevin Lamming has also decided to step down from the committee and we must thank him for his assistance in the printing of the Newsletter. We wish him well particularly in January when he becomes a father.

Merrian Lancaster has produced a superb website using the latest LDWA website template and all of her efforts over the year have really paid off.

The group has once again put on successful challenge events such as the Chiltern Kanter in February and the Shillington Shuffle in November as part of the new BBN Triple Challenge. More reports on those to follow.

Once again I'd like to thank all the committee members and group members who've helped out on various projects throughout the year. If I've forgotten anyone then I do apologise. We have a lot to be proud of in 2011 and much to look forward to in 2012, especially the group's involvement in the 2012 Games 100.

I'm willing to stand as Secretary for another year if so elected by the group.

Nigel thanked Norman for his comprehensive and well thought out report, and there was a round of appreciative applause for Norman.

Following his report Norman said that the engraved salver on display was to be presented to John Nickerson in acknowledgment of his work for the group. As John was not present, Norman confirmed that the salver would be presented to him at the first opportunity.

Steve Clark was presented with an engraved tankard to thank him for his work as Webmaster and Newsletter Editor.

(c) Treasurer – John Nickerson

John was not present at the meeting, having indicated previously that he would be standing down as Treasurer. The accounts for the year had been drawn up, audited and passed to Norman. The Audited Accounts were circulated and in John's absence Kathy LoRaso summarised them for the meeting.

Kathy said the accounts showed a very good year for the group. There was a surplus of income over expenditure of £264 for the year 2011, following a slight loss of £159 for the year 2010. The challenge walks had both shown a surplus – the Steppingley Step 2010 = £510 (Steppingley Step 2011 = £435) and the Chiltern Kanter = £388. Kathy summarised that the well run challenge walks had contributed to total assets of £5,400, with £3,200 in the current account and £2,200 in the savings account.

Kathy concluded that BBN would seem to be a well run group with sufficient income to offset expenses and that this enabled the subscription to be kept low. She confirmed that the accounts had been audited by Barry Watson on the 14th November 2011.

Nigel thanked Kathy for reporting on the accounts and there was a round of applause for her.

It was decided to deal with subscriptions for 2012 at this point in the meeting and it was agreed that the subscription would remain at £1.

(d) Membership - Dave Findel-Hawkins

Dave read his report:

Total membership as at 25th November is 156. This is two more than last year and represents, I believe, our highest ever total at the time of the AGM. We have had 20 new members join during the year but lost 18.

Three of these unfortunately were due to deaths. Of the other 15, eight had joined for the first time in 2010 so maybe we or the LDWA didn't meet their needs. I intend to check if any are still LDWA members next year. Four of the seven who had been members prior to last year are no longer members of the LDWA – well not in our catchment area.

In the BBN catchment area there are 209 individual and 46 family members in the LDWA, so there are still a large number of potential new members.

There were no questions. Nigel thanked Dave for his report and commented on the healthy level of membership.

(e) Social Walks Secretary – Dee Brockway's report

Dee read her report which she had also circulated:

I trust everyone can at least see of a copy of the Social Walks Report. I begin, like last year, by thanking all the leaders for offering to take us on a walk, providing me with the necessary details and spending, what I know, is a lot of time and energy, planning out, measuring and surveying their route before the big day! It may take a bit of time but I think all would agree it is a rewarding experience and it allows many fellow walkers to enjoy a great day out. If you have not yet led a walk please give it a thought. Recently, when I was trawling through my records, I was staggered to find we had no fewer than 9 new leaders this year, which can only be very good news for the club. Apologising for any inaccuracies or omissions in advance, my sincere thanks to Teresa

Brown and Chris Burns (joint leaders), Alan Hall, Mary Knight, Michael Mooney, Jim Morrison, Philip Nice (who led 2 walks!), Dave Norris and Ian Turnbull....you all took that that extra big step or maybe quite a few more!

Our regular leaders are the backbone of our successful club! Last year Sylvie sat alone at the top of the pile as she led 4 walks, however this time she shares the honour with Dave FH, Gordon and Dave Sedgley, who all lead a staggering 3 walks each! You all make this job very easy.

At this point I always thank John for the excellent work he does in co-ordinating the Thursday programme, and this year is no exception. Thank you John for ensuring two Thursday walks were on offer every single month. I much regret that John, after many years, has signalled his intention to no longer continue in this role in the future. Hopefully, once the new committee is established (and if I am still Walks Secretary), someone will offer to take over the Thursday programme. I am happy to co-ordinate everything, but, still having to work for my living, I cannot attend mid-week walks and so would find this part of the job difficult.

Of course quality is as important as quantity and our extensive walks programme also achieves a wonderfully high standard of very varied and interesting walks. We have enjoyed not just excellent routes and scenery throughout our three counties but each walk has offered that extra 'something'. Lots of interesting themes ranging from The Great Train Robbery to the historic St Albans Steeple Chase and a very thought provoking walk lead by Therese Jamin, remembering our brave S.O.E.s. Most walks are circular but when Steve Smith comes up with the bright idea of walking the entire linear Kingfisher Way in a day, all car drivers rallied round to make this great walk possible.

Right, now for what some may say are the boring statistics, except that our figures are so impressive they can be anything but boring. We offered a remarkable total of 52 social walks, 6 more than last year, which is conveniently an average of 1 per week, 24 on a Thursday and 28 at the weekend. If you had chosen to do all of these you could have covered a total of 867.5 miles accompanied by an average of 16.15 friends. You would have followed 41 different walk leaders, 5 as joint leaders, and this means 13 more people chose to be involved this year. Santa, as always, attracted the most walkers, 32 in total. This year a new figure:- of the total 892 walkers 32 were not members of the LDWA. Visitors are of course welcome and I trust some of these new faces have now joined the BBN club.

To the future, and one small change to the programme for the remainder of 2011. Due to personal circumstances Chris Bent can no longer lead the Boxing Day walk so I shall be taking his place. It remains 12 miles starting at Ampthill Park. The programme for the first four months of 2012 is now finalised and published and I am now actively seeking volunteers for the May to August period. I realise that the final dates for the necessary information is a long time before the walk, but Strider and our own Newsletter deadlines dictate this. Could I suggest any leaders book the date of their walk asap (I am around with the diary after the meeting). I will need to know the final details by 10th January please.

Finally, a quick, but very big thanks to Gill for all her help in the much needed proof reading of the programme and its input onto the web. Yet again, many thanks to all and, if elected, I would be honoured to continue for a 6th year as Social Walks Secretary.

BBN Social Walks Report Nov 2010 - Nov 2011

DATE	WALK	LEADER	DIST (miles)	No.WALKERS (non-members)
Sun 28 Nov	AGM Walk Silsoe	Dee Brockway	8	27
Thurs 2 Dec	Ronde Van Groot Linford	Adrian Moody	15	12
Sun 5 Dec	Arms and Legs	Peter Simon	17	14 (1)
Sun 12 Dec	Mistletoe at Missenden	Norman Corrin	15	32 (1 Mr Claus!)
Thurs 16 Dec	The GHFL Walk	David Findel-Hawkins	15	17
Thurs 13 Jan	Review of the Great Train Robbery	John & Judy Nickerson	15	15 (1)
Sun 16 Jan	Remembering the SOEs	Therese Jamin	16	28
Thurs 27 Jan	The Northamptonshire Round Pt 1	David Findel-Hawkins	15	23
Sun 30 Jan	Sundon Saunter	David Sedgley	20	32 (3)
Sun 6 Feb	A Walk from Ashridge	John Davies	20	16

Thurs 10 Feb	Great St Albans Steeple Chase	David Sedgley	15	25 (4)
Sun 13 Feb	Bison, Beeches and Boats	Alan Hall	20	17
Thurs 24 Feb	Parts that Walks Haven't Reached	Roger Story	15	16
Sun 6 March	The Creaton Crawl	Andrew Gilbertson	19	10
Thurs 10 March	The Pegsdon Hills Walk	Brian Harwood	16	17
Sun 13 March	Buckland Bash	Phil Hastings	19	33
Sun 20 March	Handy,Bandy.....Sandy Walk	Steve Smith	18	21
Thurs 24 March	To the Globe and Back	Brian Graves	14	26
Sun 3 April	North of Dunstable Villages Tour	Ian Sage	16	21
Thurs 7 April	The Hexton Hike	Gordon Shaughnessy	15	17
Sun 17 April	Architect, Assassin, Angel, Devil	Michael Mooney	17	9
Thurs 21 April	Another wander around MK	Jim Morrison	15	17
Thurs 5 May	Bucknell Woods Bumble	David Findel-Hawkins	16.5	17
Sun 8 May	Easing in Edlesborough	Sylvie Eames	15	
Sun 15 May	Ridge, River and Reserve	Teresa Brown/Chris Burns	20	19 (2)
Thurs 19 May	Alternative Boundary Trail	Adrian Moody	15	17 (2)
Sun 22 May	The Three R's	Nigel Schofield	19	6 (1)
Thurs 9 June	Another Marston Meander	Derek Jacob	15	20 (1)
Sun 12 June	Ashridge and Beyond	Gordon Shaughnessy	20	17 (4)
Sun 19 June	From the M40 to the Thames	Philip Nice	21	6
Thurs 23 June	The Southwick Saunter	John Cheshier	15	16 (2)
Sun 3 July	Bernwood Jubilee Way	Sylvie Eames	16	10
Thurs 7 July	A Shorter Sundon Saunter	Dave Sedgley	15	15
Thurs 21 July	Roger's Ramble	Roger Story	15	10
Sun 24 July	Kingfisher Way	Steve Smith	21	17
Sun 31 July	A Walk Near Chesham	John Davies	20	13 (1)
Thurs 4 Aug	3 Ridges Walk	Roger & Margaret Skerman	15	13
Sun 7 Aug	Woburn Wander	Ian Turnbull	18	12
Sun 14 Aug	Missenden Rollercoaster	Peter Simon	18	21 (2)
Thurs 18 Aug	Toddington Toddle	Gordon Shaughnessy	15	17
Sun 4 Sept	Tea & Biscuits Little Brickhill	Dave Norris	15	5
Thurs 8 Sept	Another Marston Meander	Derek Jacob	15	21 (5)
Sun 11 Sept	Beyond Snorscomb and Back	John Ledger	20	3
Thurs 22 Sept	Boats, Birds and a Clip Lock Box	Adrian Moody	15	21
Sun 25 Sept	A Stone's Throw	Paul & Suzanne Flynn	19	11
Sun 2 Oct	Greensand Brickhills	Sylvie Eames	15	15
Thurs 6 Oct	Planes,Trains,Automobiles &Boats	Mary Knight	15	14
Sun 9 Oct	The Lyveden Way Plus	Philip Nice	21	8
Thurs 20 Oct	The A14 Frontier Walk	Peter Bearne	15	19
Sun 23 Oct	Ambling with Andrew	Andrew Gilbertson	20	15 (2)
Thurs 10 Nov	Not the Valley and Views	John & Judy Nickerson	15	20
Thurs 24 Nov	Straight to Northampton	Frank Riley	15	22

The Incredible and Exciting Statistics.

Number of social walks - Thursdays-24 Weekends-28. **Total = 52 walks**

Number of social walk leaders - 41

Average social walk length 16.68miles

Average number attending each social walk 17.15

Total miles walked 867.5

Total number on all social walks - (obviously the same folk walked more than once!) **892**

There were no questions following Dee's report, and Nigel thanked her for her hard work for the group and the production of another excellent year of walks.

(f) Merchandising Secretary - Lynn Yorston's report

Lynn read her report:

Purchases of garments have been very slow. Sales for this past financial year total £43.50. We do only have two occasions where we take the stock for display – Pick & Mix and S/S walks. We have T-shirts, polo shirts, rugby shirts, sweat shirts and baseball caps all embroidered with our group logo. If anyone would like to purchase a group garment, please contact us.

We do hope that photos can be posted on our website in the near future

We are willing to continue looking after the merchandise.

Following Lynn's report Merrian confirmed that the BBN garments were not yet displayed on the website but she would make sure they were now put on without further delay.

(g) Equipment – Lynn Yorston's report

Lynn read her report:

Since the last AGM, the group has purchased a new electric water boiler, a good supply of 2 litre plastic jugs and 3 catering tea pots.

The list of equipment and where it lives seems to have failed completely. We have asked members to inform us if they move items to be stored elsewhere. This does not seem to have happened. Over the next few weeks, we shall be sending out a form to be completed regarding where the equipment is being stored at the present time. This will let us know if you hold anything that belongs to the group and then the list will be properly updated.

Nigel thanked Lynn for both reports and her diligence in looking after the merchandise and equipment and commented that if anybody helping on an event thought of any items of equipment that could be purchased to facilitate checkpoints etc please let Lynn know.

Lynn said that following the Shillington Shuffle she wondered if we should purchase metal cutlery for use on future events, and this was agreed to be a good idea, both from the "green" point of view and also for the ease of using metal cutlery rather than plastic. It was agreed that Lynn would purchase sufficient metal cutlery before BBN's next challenge event, subject to agreement on cost at the next Committee Meeting.

Gill said that there was still a lot of BBN equipment in Sybil Davies' garage in Bedford and that Martin Lawson had offered to store some of this. Dave Findel-Hawkins has retained some items following the Shillington Shuffle, and Lynn confirmed she would send a form to be completed by everyone thought to be storing equipment.

(h) Webmaster – Merrian Lancaster's report

Merrian read her report:

In June we adopted the standard LDWA template for the BBN website. The site is hosted by the LDWA, and it doesn't cost us anything.

For those who haven't looked at the site, it contains

- Future events
- Social walk programmes
- Meetings – dates, agendas and minutes of committee meetings and AGMs
- Entry forms for our challenge events
- Route descriptions for our challenge events
- Results from our challenge events
- Newsletters
- Pictures

There's a bit more detail in the June newsletter, which is on the website.

In early November the site was converted to use the latest LDWA template. Apart from a change to the headings, it looks like the only difference is that the section headings are at the top instead of down the left

hand side. Behind the scenes, however, it now conforms to appropriate rules, regs and standards and we have more scope to change the appearance of our content. I'll take a look at what's possible and try a few experiments. Please let me have your ideas and suggestions as I have no creative abilities.

My thanks to Gill Bunker for updating the site when I'm away and to everyone who has sent me pictures to load.

Nigel thanked Merrian for her report. Following Merrian's report Kathy LoRaso said that Simon Leck (LDWA Website & Internet) had been very helpful with advice regarding local groups' websites and Merrian confirmed she was already in contact with him.

Steve Clark commented that at present there could only be a certain number of photos on the website and for the payment of a few pounds more there could be as many photos as the group wanted. It was confirmed that this issue had already been discussed at the last committee meeting when it had been agreed to refer it for a decision at the AGM. It was, however, now agreed that detailed information should be obtained and the matter would be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Merrian confirmed that she thought Dee's idea of having a "fun photos" section (raised at an earlier committee meeting) was a good idea and that she would follow this up.

(i) Newsletter

Steve had already indicated that he would be standing down as Editor. He said he had enjoyed producing the Newsletter, although he said the last issue was very thin as there had been few contributions.

Nigel thanked Steve for all his work, and there was a round of appreciative applause for Steve.

(j) Local Groups Representative

Nigel confirmed that he had attended the LGRs meeting on 13th November and that he had circulated a copy of the Minutes, including an update on LDWA by Paul Lawrence with his Chairman's Report. He said about 20 representatives had attended and it had been very worthwhile as a large raft of issues had been raised and discussed. He confirmed that various matters raised at the LGRs meeting would go forward to the next National Committee meeting in January.

Nigel wanted to draw two matters to the meeting's attention:

- (i) The Forestry Commission may make a charge for using Forestry Commission land for a checkpoint – it is necessary to obtain a permit. The Forestry Commission cannot charge, however, for the use of a footpath which crosses their land.
- (ii) One local group had received a grant as their challenge walk went through an Area of Outstanding Beauty – such grants are available to promote walking in the countryside. Nigel thought this was something BBN could consider, although he queried whether it would be appropriate to apply for a grant when group funds were in surplus. Peter Simon commented that the whole of the Chilterns (with the exception of Luton!) was an ANOB.

Dee said she was staggered to read in the Report that only 27% of LDWA members are female.

Merrian said that she and Dave Findel-Hawkins had walked with many local groups and BBN appeared to be the only group that asked at the start of the walk whether all present were LDWA members and took contact information from non-members. Dave Yorston said this was in case a non-member had an accident. Nigel asked that BBN continue to do this and this was agreed. Nigel said he would refer the matter to Paul Lawrence (LDWA Chairman) as he thought other groups may need to be reminded about this.

Dee commented on the mention of special 40th anniversary LDWA membership cards, but it appeared that most people present at the meeting had not noticed the difference (two colours!!).

Nigel confirmed that if anyone had any further questions following the LGRs meeting, he was happy to receive emails and would pass on any matters he could not respond to himself.

4. Election of Officers

Norman took over conduct of the meeting for the election of the Chairman. Nigel was unanimously re-elected (Prop: Norman Corrin; Sec: Lynn Yorston).

The election of officers and the committee followed. Martin Lawson indicated he would like to stand for election to the committee (Prop: Dave Yorston, Sec: Mike Hyland), and the following officers and committee members were elected unanimously.

The 2012 committee is therefore:

- (a) **Chairman** Nigel Schofield Prop: Norman Corrin, Sec: Lynn Yorston
- (b) **Secretary** Norman Corrin Prop: Dave Yorston, Sec: Ian Sage
- (c) **Treasurer** Ian Sage Prop: Dee Brockway, Sec: Merrian Lancaster
- (d) **Social Walks Secretary** Dee Brockway Prop: Lynn Yorston, Sec: Martin Lawson
- (e) **Committee Members** Gill Bunker, Dave Findel-Hawkins, Merrian Lancaster, Martin Lawson, Gordon Shaughnessy, Lynn Yorston,

- (f) **Committee members appointed to specific roles:**
 - (i) Membership Dave Findel-Hawkins
 - (ii) Merchandising/Equipment Lynn Yorston
 - (iii) Webmaster Merrian Lancaster
 - (iv) Newsletter Gill Bunker
 - (v) Local Groups Rep Nigel Schofield
 - (vi) Minute Secretary Gill Bunker

- (g) **Cheque Signatories** Ian Sage, Nigel Schofield, Norman Corrin

5. Subscriptions for 2012

It had already been agreed following the Treasurer's report that subscriptions for 2012 would remain at £1.

6. Group Finances/Donations/Projects

Nigel said that the group had plenty of money in its account and asked for ideas for how to spend some of the money.

Ian Sage said that some provision should be made for item 11 (BBN's 30th anniversary), and Lynn Yorston said a buffer was also needed for the Games Hundred.

Nigel said that some other groups had donated to their local Air Ambulance, and it was agreed to donate £250 to the Berkshire Oxon and Bucks Air Ambulance (and it is hoped to get a photo of the cheque handover for Strider/Newsletter). Norman said that two other projects had been mentioned previously: Donate a Gate (a new kissing gate for the Chiltern Society) and a brick on the bridge over the Wendover Arm canal (restoration of the Wendover Arm). It was agreed that £150 would be donated to each of these causes.

Lynn said that following the Chiltern Landmarks 100 part of the surplus fund had been used to purchase an area of woodland, but that the plaque commemorating this had disappeared. She wondered if the brick on the Wendover Arm bridge would be lost. Norman said he did not think so. Lynn said she would look into the position regarding the woodland plaque with a view to replacing it.

Dee raised the question of whether committee members should be reimbursed the cost of their petrol for attending committee meetings. She said she was not raising this from her own personal view, but as a general principle as the cost of petrol was increasing and that committee members gave up a lot of their time to help run the group and was it right that it should also cost them money too? Nigel asked whether this could be agreed in principle and whether a set sum could be given. Lynn Yorston was against the idea of reimbursement as she felt strongly that people take on committee positions knowing they are not going to be paid to do so. The discussion widened to include checkpoint marshals. Gordon Shaughnessy asked where the payment would stop, would leaders of social walks also claim reimbursement? Dee said no, as a walks leader could always choose where to lead from and would often lead in their local area. Nigel summarised saying that the decision to be made was whether in principle there was agreement to a sum of money being paid to defray

the cost of petrol for (a) committee members travelling to committee meetings (b) marshals on challenge events (c) social walk leaders.

Nigel said we should find out what other groups do and agreed to email all local group secretaries for information. Dee felt that BBN were the exception rather than the rule in not reimbursing. Very strong views were expressed by the meeting both for and against the proposal and it was agreed that the views of the wider membership were necessary before a decision was made. This matter would be brought to all members' notice, and be placed as an Agenda item for the 2012 AGM.

7. Appointment of Auditor for 2012

It was not known if Barry Watson was willing to continue as Auditor. Ian Sage said he would establish whether the auditor was required to be a Chartered Accountant and would report back.

Kathy confirmed from looking at the accounts that John Nickerson had given Barry Watson a bottle of wine to thank him for auditing the 2011 accounts.

8. BBN Challenge Events

(a) Chiltern Kanter 2011 Norman Corrin

Norman said that Kathy had already commented on the surplus from the event. He said that for the next event he would welcome the formation of a small committee to run the event, in a similar way that a committee now organised the November SS events. He confirmed that he was looking for an alternative venue because of the introduction of car parking charges in Tring,

(b) Steppingley Step 2010, Shillington Shuffle 2011 and future "SS" Events Lynn Yorston

It had already been noted that the 2010 event had a surplus of £435.

Lynn's report:

The Shillington Shuffle 2011 took place two weeks ago with about 300 people taking part but will be covered in the 2012 AGM. Just a note - we had 24 walking the marshals' walk. This must be a record!!

We are now starting to plan the Sundon Saunter as the second event for the Triple Challenge.

We have advertised The Triple Challenge of consecutive completions of the three events. I have produced an enlarged version of both the badge and the certificate to use as publicity. We will not do anything else for the Triple until the end of 2012.

Lynn added that next year's event, the Sundon Saunter, will be held a week later as the hall at Barton-le-Clay was not available for hire on the usual Sunday. Entries for the 2011 event had closed during the week before the event and it has already been agreed that there will be no entries on the day next year.

(c) Pick & Mix 2012 Lynn Yorston

Lynn's report:

We have booked the school premises for 4th March 2012. The new 12 mile route is written and now needs to be checked. The previous 12 mile route has been cropped to 8 miles and also needs to be checked.

Entry forms are in circulation and we have several entries already.

We need a team of helpers for HQ including parking marshals. About half of these will be able to complete their duties by 09.00 and would then be free to walk the event. We also need staff for the 1 outdoor checkpoint on the 12 mile loop. This will be from about 09.00 until 13.00. Please chat to Dave, Mike, Sandra or me if you wish to help.

Mike Hyland confirmed there are 25 entries to date.

9. LDWA Hundreds

(a) Housman 100 2011 CP

Norman said that the BBN checkpoint had gone very well, although there had been problems with the event as a whole and it had been one of the toughest Hundreds ever. In response to a question from Martin Lawson, Norman confirmed that he had received a cheque for £200 from the organisers which he would be passing to the new Treasurer.

(b) Games 100 2012

Norman confirmed he was Entries Secretary and had been very busy over the past weeks checking entries. It was a time consuming task as qualifying events, LDWA membership and duplicated entries all needed to be checked. He confirmed there were 536 entries (of which 492 had qualifying events) and therefore a draw was not needed. SPORTident would be taking payment from online entrants from 4th December.

Nigel confirmed that anyone wishing to help on the event should contact Dave Findel-Hawkins or Merrian Lancaster.

Josephine Pettifer asked when entrants for the marshals' walk would know whether they had a place and Dave Yorston confirmed that if an entry had been sent in, and had not been returned, then they had a place.

Josephine also asked when they would have further details of where they would be helping on the Hundred. Merrian said that as much information as was available at present had already been sent to volunteers and more information would be sent as soon as further details had been sorted out.

Games 100 Marshals' Walk : Lynn's report:

What a great response as usual with over 50% of helpers from BB&N. All is booked, signed and settled. We have 42 entries to date. We are now looking at the finer details and will contact all the Checkpoint Managers by the end of the year to remind them what they have volunteered for. I intend to use the Pick & Mix as a hand-over place for non-perishable supplies and instructions. If this does not suit someone, then I will sort out another venue to meet up to discuss these details.

Games 100 Merchandise: Lynn's report:

Merchandise for the whole event is also with us. We have made initial enquiries and artwork is being sorted as we speak. We hope to have the order sheet on the 100 web page in January. Anyone helping will be able to order a 'marshal' garment which is planned to arrive in time to wear them for the marshals' walk.

(c) Cornwall & Devon 2013 Lynn Yorston

Lynn's report:

I have been in contact with Sarah Sitko of Cornwall & Devon group. She is to be the co-ordinator for the checkpoints on the 2013 100 and has introduced herself as a young mum of 1 with another on the way due next March !! We are still being asked to man the CP3 in a farm barn. I have, however, asked her to remember us for our first choice of CP2 in a village hall if the appointed group withdraws their offer.

I, along with Dave, Mike and Sandra will be representing BB&N on their Marshals' event. Each couple has volunteered to manage a late checkpoint.

Merrian agreed to co-ordinate the 2013 BBN checkpoint.

10. LDWA 40th Anniversary 2012

Nigel explained that the LDWA National Committee hoped that all local groups would organise a social or challenge event over the weekend of 22nd/23rd September 2012 to celebrate the LDWA's 40th anniversary. There will also be a 40th anniversary souvenir issue of Strider in September 2012.

Martin Lawson suggested BBN put on a 40K social walk.

11. BBN 30th Anniversary Celebrations 2013

Norman said that an original idea had been to put on 3x30 mile challenge events through the summer of 2013 but he now felt this was probably impractical.

Norman suggested a 30th anniversary group walk from Woburn as this was where the first BBN walk started.

Dave Findel-Hawkins said the idea of 3x30 mile group walks had been proposed, with the addition of a 10 mile AGM walk, providing a challenge to walk a total of 100 miles with a certificate. Gill Bunker said that Chris Bent had offered to lead a 30 mile walk in Northamptonshire. Gill said that as not all members would be able to take on the 3x30 + 10 mile challenge, perhaps there could also be 3x30k group walks through the summer as well.

12. Group Activities – Weekends – Social Events

Norman said various group activities were coming up:

- (i) The booking of the youth hostel for the Dovedale Dipper in August;
- (ii) Chris and Frances' weekend in March. (It was noted that these have proved very popular and this weekend is nearly full);
- (iii) Isle of Wight October 2012 - Dee outlined the plan to walk the Isle of Wight coast path led by Jill Green. An email has been circulated and 9 people have already booked;
- (iv) There was also the New Year which Norman was celebrating in the Dog House on 15th January.

In response to a question, Norman said he would probably not be organising other quiz.

Steve Smith said he had recently been on a Rock & Roll weekend in Great Yarmouth where they had walked in the day and had brilliant entertainment in the evening. Steve thought this would be a great idea for a group weekend. The weekends are in April, October and December, and Steve said he would put something in the Newsletter.

13. A.O.B.

Gill Bunker said she would like to commend Merrian on the production of the BBN name badges

Norman had a supply of LDWA membership forms for people to hand out on social walks, etc. He confirmed he was also trying to get a further supply of LDWA business cards as these were really useful to hand out.

Nigel thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.21 pm

The next committee meeting will be held on Friday 20th January at 1 Abbey Way, Bradville, Milton Keynes, MK13 7AN at 7.45 pm

The dates of future committee meetings will be decided at that meeting.