

**LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION: BEDS BUCKS & NORTHANTS GROUP**  
**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**SUNDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2012**  
**AT THE NAVIGATION INN, COSGROVE, NORTHANTS**

**Present (35)**

Dee Brockway (**Social Walks**), Teresa Brown, Gill Bunker (**Newsletter**), Christine Burns, Steve Clark, Norman Corrin (**Secretary**), John Davies, Dave Findel-Hawkins (**Membership**), Phil Friede, Andrew Gilbertson, Jenny Greatbatch, Gill Howe, Michael Hyland, Sandra Hyland, Merrian Lancaster (**Website**), Martin Lawson (**Committee Member**), Alan Leadbetter, John Ledger, Graham Missing, Jane O'Dea, Roger O'Dea, Josephine Pettifer, Roy Presland, Janet Presland, Pat Sage, Ian Sage (**Treasurer**), Nigel Schofield (**Chairman**), David Sedgley, Gordon Shaughnessy (**Thursday Walks**). Pearl Smith, Steve Smith, Lucy Tink, Ian Turnbull, Dave Yorston, Lynn Yorston (**Merchandising/Equipment**)

The meeting commenced at 2.10 pm.

Nigel opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, and in particular Roy and Janet Presland, former BBN Chairman and Group Secretary.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from: Anne Addison, Graham Bayes, Peter Bearne, Mike Bowley, Jackie Burnett, Roy Carter, John Cheshier, David Cheshier, Sybil Davies, Sylvie Eames, Brian Graves, Bob & Jane Gilks, Brian Harwood, Phil Hastings, Derek Jacob, Rachel Martin, Steve & Gill McMorro, Jim Morrison, Marcus Rogers, Margaret & Roger Skerman, Peter Simon, Ria Sonder, David Thompson and Jan Williams,

**2. Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising**

The Minutes had previously been circulated. Ian Sage (Treasurer) said that there was an error in last year's accounts – a £30 credit in the bank statement was not recorded in the Income spreadsheet.

There were no matters arising and the Minutes were accepted as a true record.

Prop: D Yorston, Sec: S Clark

**3. Officers' Reports**

**(a) Chairman – Nigel Schofield's report**

Nigel summarised his report, which was also circulated:

Welcome to the 2012 AGM. I hope that you all enjoyed the walk this morning and that those who had lunch here at The Navigation are suitably refreshed and content. I would like to thank Norman on your behalf for leading the walk this morning and for organising the luncheon with Gill, and thank Norman for organising the AGM today.

Following the preliminary thanks to Norman above for today I would like you to join with me in thanking Norman Corrin – who stands down as LDWA - BBN Group Secretary today – for the tremendous amount of time and dedication he has performed on our behalf. Far too many hours at the computer each or most evenings and how he managed time to be an LDWA National Committee Member, lead walks, organise quizzes and somehow find time to assist Santa Claus on

the annual Christmas Walk – this year on Sunday 9th December from Sandy - can only amaze us all. A truly magnificent effort epitomising that we should always consider what we can do for BBN and not just what BBN can do for us. And not many people know this! Committee Member since 1996, Merchandising - and the big one – Group Secretary since 2002. Organised the first and was it second Holy Hobble? with partner in crime Martin Lawson. Norman has been responsible for the Chiltern Kanter since 2005, and I have been told that Norman is often quoted ‘My indecision is final’. Many thanks Norman, you will be a hard act to follow – but I am sure that within the BBN Membership there will be a worthy successor.

BBN was represented by Lynn, Dave, Norman and myself on the Games 100 Committee and the Marshals’ Walk was well run by Lynn and Dave and supported by many and I mean many BBN members. Congratulations to those in BBN who completed the Marshals’ Walk and the main event and commiserations to those who did not. Good luck to those BBNers who have entered the Camel – Teign 100. Please contact Lynn or Merrian with offers of help in marshalling on the Marshals’ event or the main event.

Your Committee has continued to meet three times a year and each AGM to consider Challenge Events, Social Walks Calendar, Accounts, Merchandising and Equipment – boring stuff you might say but as part of the LDWA Constitution we are required to do so and thanks to Ian Sage for taking on the role of Treasurer and we are very pleased with his efforts and thanks to Gordon Shaughnessy for looking after the Thursday Walks Programme.

Thanks also to Frances Craven, Chris Bent and Betty Sherry for organising two BBN walking weekends in Derbyshire.

Who remembers the Pick and Mix on 4th March run by Dave, Lynn, Mike and Sandra – what a quartet? If you were there as a marshal or as an entrant you would not forget this event in a hurry, inclement weather until early afternoon would be an understatement as was the snow at the 12 mile checkpoint. We did well to have one main checkpoint at the Missenden Primary School so that no one was out all day trudging round.

Then the first running (sic) of the Sundon Saunter. I expect that conditions underfoot on both Marshals and main event were bad but the hardy souls who endured at least six hours of heavy rain (plus some snow?) on the Marshals’ walk would have not made it back to Barton without the magnificent support of Merrian and Dave, smiling faces, hot drinks, cake, biscuits and crisps. The six of us doing the 27 mile route were so glad to see them at Harlington, after 15 minutes we were off again fortified with drinks, calories and good cheer from the checkpoint hosts and everyone could not believe what was on offer to all walkers arriving at Sundon bus shelter – fantastic.

And speaking of rain some 21 members and a dog got very wet on 23rd September as we tried to celebrate 40 years of the LDWA. Thanks to Martin Lawson for organising the walk, and thanks to my three companions in the afternoon as we slipped and slid around the second part.

This is my sixth 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. It never ceases to amaze me 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.

I hope that you will enjoy the 2013 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.

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 Coalport in Shropshire, 24 reps from Local Groups and seven National Executive Committee Members. A great walk in dry conditions ‘Three Rings of Ironbridge’ led by Mike Buckley, up and down three times in the Severn Gorge in this World Heritage Site – Coalbrookdale much of the gestation of the Industrial Revolution. Coalport Youth Hostel was in the Coalport China Factory – well worth a visit. The Minutes of the meeting have been distributed today and are or will be on the BBN website.

Congratulations to Gill Howe and Andrew Gilbertson who are now sharing walking poles and best wishes to them from all of us in BBN. And good luck to Christine Pendlebury and daughter Kathryn who have gone to the northern wastes and joined Nidderdale Local Group.

I hope you all received the 40th Anniversary copy of Strider and that you will be able to join BBN in celebrating our 30th Anniversary in 2013. A brewery visit, a canal boat trip, a quiz, all with walks are to be confirmed. Plus a 30 mile walk led by Chris Bent and three 30 kilometre walks co-ordinated by Martin Lawson. Don’t forget the Chiltern Kanter on 3rd March and marshals’ walk on 24th February – all offers of help to Norman please.

I am pleased to stand for re-election as your Chairman for 2012/2013 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’ in our 30th anniversary year.

Nigel also mentioned the sudden and very sad death of Chris Dawes (Marches Local Group) during the previous week. Chris was a well-known and long standing LDWA member who had devised the Shropshire Hundred route, and had in fact led a walk at the LGRs’ meeting only the previous weekend.

There were no questions following Nigel’s report.

#### **(b) Secretary - Norman Corrin’s report**

Norman read his report which was also circulated:

2012 in the UK was dominated by 2 events. These were the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee over the weekend of the 2nd/4th June and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The LDWA was no exception and this was highlighted over the Diamond Jubilee weekend when the annual LDWA100 (a.k.a. the Games 100) took place.

The event started outside the Olympic Stadium passing by several London landmarks and winding its way through Kent and Surrey to eventually end up on the Long Walk outside Windsor Castle. As some wag mentioned on the LDWA forum “why couldn’t the Queen have a normal length drive like anyone else?”

The Games 100 had an additional significant element as 2012 was the Association’s 40th anniversary and the route passed the Peaslake Post Office (now a cycle shop) where Alan

Blatchford placed his famous advert asking for anyone interested in long distance walking to which Chris Steer replied and the Association was thus formed. In the words of the BBN Chairman at the post-Games 100 dinner, they started something which stopped a lot of people getting very bored!

There was a heavy BBN element on the organising committees for the 100 Marshals' Walk and the main event, There was also appalling weather on both events. To those who completed either event I offer my congratulations and to those who didn't I offer my commiserations. There is always next year. My final word on the Games 100 is that if anyone wants to know how to get 3 stiffies in a Transit Van ask Lynn and Sandra, they'll be only too happy to tell you!

BBN also continued with its reputation as a dating agency for those of a more mature disposition. Following on from 2010 and 2011 Gill Howe and Andrew Gilbertson were married in August and promptly spent their honeymoon on a 47 mile walk! We wish them both well.

The group has continued to invest its hard earned funds acquired from 29 years of existence by amongst other items supporting the Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Bucks Air Ambulance, The Chiltern Society Donate a Gate scheme, the Wendover Arm Trust with the installing of a plaque on Bridge 4 of the Wendover Arm. For those entrants on the long route on the Chiltern Kanter in March my only advice is to keep your eyes peeled!

Our social walks secretary Dee Brockway, along with Gordon Shaughnessy, has produced a varied social walks programme, persuading several new members to lead social walks for the first time. They both featured prominently in the Games 100 pictures in the August Strider along with several other BBN members. Having Steve Clark as the official LDWA 100 photographer does have its advantages!

After a break of 4 years Gill Bunker put on her editor's hat again and has produced a newsletter full of information about various committee members which we didn't know before! And she didn't even have to hack into anyone's phone to do so!

Merrian Lancaster has continued to maintain the group website updating it regularly and along with Dave Findel-Hawkins ran an excellent BBN checkpoint on the Games 100. The wraps in particular provided an excellent hit with the entrants particularly when served by one of the BBN angels! I would also like to wish Dave success in his bid to become National Events Secretary.

The group has once again put on successful challenge events such as the Pick & Mix in March (organised by Dave & Lynn, Mike & Sandra) and a new event the Sundon Saunter in November (organised by the same 4 plus Merrian, Gordon and Dave Sedgley). This last event is part of the BBN Triple Challenge.

Suffice to say that the Four Seasons is not only the name of an American pop and rock band in the 1960s but also refers to the weather experienced in the 10 hours of the Mix! I'm sure Lynn will enlighten us more.

A small BBN group (Gordon and I, and Lucy Tink for the first time) ventured abroad to the Castlebar 4 Days walks in Ireland. Lucy was so enamoured of the event that she wrote an article for the October group newsletter and is very keen to go again next year. However that was topped by Dee and Betty (and Steve Clark later in the year) travelling even further afield to Ethiopia.

The group has had two weekends away. Both from the Sheen Youth Hostel in Hartington in the Peak District. The first organised by Chris Bent and Frances Craven in March and the second by Betty Sherry for the Dovedale Dipper in August. This happened to co-incide with what is now known as "Super Saturday" in the 2012 Olympics. The catering at the Staffordshire Knot Pub nearby is first rate and on previous visits the evening meals have taken a few hours to enjoy and savour. On this particular Saturday all were in the pub by 7 p.m. and back at the Youth Hostel by 8.15 to watch our triumphant athletes. It really did add a golden glow to the weekend!

We have a lot to be proud of in 2012 and much to look forward to in 2013 namely the group's 30th Anniversary celebrations which will be dealt with later.

This is my last AGM as Secretary. It's been a lot of fun and also a lot of hard work! It's been a real pleasure and privilege to work with all of those present and past committee members who've given up their time to enhance the outstanding reputation that BBN has throughout the LDWA. I'd also like to thank all group members who've done the unseen but necessary work which consists of manning checkpoints, leading social walks and finally making endless cups of tea.

To my successor, whoever he or she may be, I have only one piece of advice. The Santa Suit is not part of the job spec! I have other reports to deliver in the meeting but in my role of Secretary that's it from me! Thank you all very much.

There were no questions following Norman's report.

Nigel then presented Norman with an engraved tankard in recognition of his years of service as Group Secretary to long and enthusiastic applause from the meeting. Nigel also confirmed that Norman had been awarded Life Membership of BBN.

**(c) Treasurer – Ian Sage's report**

Ian circulated the Statement of Income of Expenditure 1.11.2011-30.9.2012 (see page 6). He summarised the main points as follows:

- (i) There was an error in last year's accounts – a £30 credit in the bank statement was not recorded in the income spreadsheet;
- (ii) These accounts have been prepared for 1st November 2011 to 30th September 2012, which is only 11 months. This is because the BBN constitution states that the financial year is 1st October to 30th September. For some reason in 2010 the accounts were prepared (by the previous Treasurer) for 1st October 2009 to 31st October 2010, i.e. 13 months. Ian said he had been unable to ascertain why this had happened;
- (iii) Ian confirmed that the accounts do not have to be audited as both the LDWA constitution and the BBN constitution do not require it. They just need to be checked and this has kindly been done by Philip Friede's company. If the accounts are approved at this meeting, they will be signed by Philip Friede's company;
- (iv) Ian said that the Santander current account and the National Savings investment account had been closed. This was because these accounts had changed;
- (v) He has opened a NatWest current account with a link to a NatWest Business Reserve account;

**LDWA BEDS/BUCKS/NORTHANTS GROUP**

**STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE**  
**1st November 2011 - 30th September 2012**

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b><u>2012</u></b>	<b><u>2011</u></b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS	150.00	154.00
DONATIONS	0.00	120.00
STEPPINGLEY STEP 2010	0.00	1,439.63
CHILTERN KANTER 2011	0.00	1,010.00
QUIZ	0.00	75.00
DERBYSHIRE WEEKEND 2012	390.00	70.00
DERBYSHIRE WEEKEND 2011	0.00	390.00
MERCHANDISE	94.00	43.50
PICK N MIX 2012	714.00	30.00
MISCELLANEOUS	313.00	77.00
SHILLINGTON SHUFFLE 2011	1429.78	365.00
HOUSMAN 100 CONTRIBUTION	200.00	0.00
SUNDON SAUNTER 2012	68.00	0.00
INTEREST	5.10	0.00
	<b>3363.88</b>	<b>3,774.13</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b><u>2012</u></b>	<b><u>2011</u></b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
DONATIONS	300.00	110.00
STEPPINGLEY STEP 2010	0.00	1,004.24
CHILTERN KANTER 2011	0.00	622.29
QUIZ	0.00	47.85
DERBYSHIRE WEEKEND 2011	0.00	400.00
DERBYSHIRE WEEKEND 2012	420.00	0.00
WEB SITE	0.00	70.93
PRINTING & POSTAGE	186.57	230.21
SHILLINGTON SHUFFLE 2011	596.46	456.38
EQUIPMENT	0.00	355.50
PICK N MIX 2012	213.98	0.00
MERCHANDISE	0.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS	364.20	254.20
HOUSMAN 100 CONTRIBUTION	140.00	0.00
DEEPDALE WEEKEND 2013	90.00	0.00
	<b>2311.21</b>	<b>3,551.60</b>
INCOME	3363.88	
EXPENDITURE	2311.21	
SURPLUS(LOSS)	1052.67	
31.10.11	5386.88	
BALANCE 30/09/12	6439.55	
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>		
NatWest Current Account	2439.48	
NatWest Business Reserve Account	4000.07	
	<b>6439.55</b>	

- (vi) The summary confirmed donations to Berks Oxon and Bucks Air Ambulance, the Wendover Arm Trust and the Chiltern Society of £100 each. Subsequent to the 2011 AGM the committee agreed further donations of £50 to the Wendover Arm Trust and £150 to the Chiltern Society;
- (vii) The summary shows the cost of the Newsletter and postage combined;
- (viii) The summary shows equipment reported under Miscellaneous. Ian said that in retrospect the figure of £108.65 for equipment should have been shown separately;
- (ix) Shillington Shuffle 2011: Income £1821.50, Expenditure £1079.56, Surplus £741.94;
- (x) Pick & Mix 2012: Income £ 919.00, Expenditure £388.98, Surplus £530.02.

The Accounts were approved (Prop: G Shaughnessy Sec: M Hyland) and Ian advised that he would arrange for the accounts to be 'signed off'.

**(d) Membership - Dave Findel-Hawkins' report**

Dave read his report:

Total membership on 20th November is at an all-time high of 164. This is nine more than at last year's AGM. We have had 28 new members, which I think reflects on the fact that the Secretary sends out a BBN welcome pack to new LDWA members in our catchment area.

19 have not renewed. Of these 19, six were new members in 2011, of which four are no longer LDWA members. Five members informed me they were no longer walking, so felt it was time to give up their BBN membership. One member has joined Essex and Herts. Of the remaining seven, one is no longer an LDWA member. The rest are still LDWA members but have made no contact, despite either being emailed or receiving a note in the last newsletter we sent them.

There were no questions following Dave's report

**(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 that whilst only two new people led a walk for the first time this year (thank you Peter Hanson and Mike Bowley, you both took that first step, well, in reality, quite a few more steps than just one!), we had no fewer than **35** different leaders this year, which can only be very good news for our club. Our regular leaders are the backbone of our successful club and our most prolific walk led us around on four occasions. Thank you Phil Hastings.

As you know, Gordon has taken on the role of Thursday walk co-ordinator, producing a full and varied programme, always in my 'in tray' by the requisite date. Cheers Gordon, you also devoted your time to lead three walks this year.

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'. Maybe a good pub meal, albeit it in a Dog House, or a chance to see maybe a lagoon, a lavender field, an unusual 'toy shop', 5 manors in one day or even the Buntingford Buffoon.

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 53 social walks, one more than last year's record, which is conveniently an average of one per week, 24 on a Thursday and 29 at the weekend. If you had chosen to do all of these you could have covered a total of 861 miles accompanied by an average of approx 17 or 18 friends. You would have followed 35 different walk leaders. 25 walkers 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.

The January to April 2012 programme is complete and work for the May to August programme is now underway. Being our 30th anniversary year, many celebratory events are already in the diary (30 mile anniversary walk, three 30km walks, one in each county, a visit to a local brewery) but we still have lots of places to fill for social walks. Please contact myself (weekend walks) or Gordon (Thursday) walks if you feel you can lead a walk. Please book a date asap and the usual final details will be required by 10th January.

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 7th year as social walks secretary.

Happy walking.

*I would then like to just read out the following at the meeting please.*

Like, I suspect, many others, I have to give my heartfelt thanks to our retiring secretary Norman, by way of a small tribute. As I write this I am not aware of the details of his successor but I would ask anyone considering the role not to assume they would be required to take on the huge amount of work Norman has carried out tirelessly for the club over many years, and they would receive the full support of Norman and the rest of the committee. In the past any member that required support, encouragement or advice about their walking has usually asked Norman. Nothing has been too much trouble for him as he has freely given hours of his own time for the benefit of the club and all its members. Like others, I have received many, many 'walking business' emails from Norman and nearly all have been peppered with his wonderful sense of humour, so you are smiling before you begin to contemplate it's content. Norman, as a fellow committee member and friend, thank you so much for all the help you have given me and I look forward to many more hours, putting one foot in front of the other, in your company.



### BBN Social Walks Report Nov 2011 - Nov 2012

DATE	WALK	LEADER	DISTANCE (Miles)	No.WALKERS (non members)
Sun 27 Nov	Morning Meander plus AGM	Dave Yorston	9	30(1)
Thurs 1 Dec	The Northampton Round Pt 2	David Findel-Hawkins	15	22(1)
Sun 4 Dec	A New Route from Royston	Phil Hastings	16	19
Sun 11 Dec	Wenceslas from Winslow	Norman Corrin	15	30(2)
Thurs 15 Dec	A Walk Around Bovingdon	John Davies	15	15
Mon 26 Dec	The BBN Boxing Day Bash	Dee Brockway	13	18(3)
Sun 8 Jan	A Little Litlington Loop	Phil Hastings	17	45
Thurs 12 Jan	Mowsbury Meander	John Nickerson	15	33
Sun 15 Jan	New Year in the Dog House	Norman Corrin	9	15
Sun 22 Jan	Rushmere Rumble	David Sedgley	20	33(3)
Thurs 26 Jan	Maybe a Saints Clip Lock Box	Adrian Moody	15	15
Thurs 9 Feb	The Lamb and Sheep Walk	Mike Bowley/Gill Bunker	15	27
Sun 12 Feb	Milton Keynes and Beyond	J Greatbatch & I Turnbull	15	20(1)
Thurs 23 Feb	Olney Footpaths	David Findel-Hawkins	15	27
Thurs 8 March	Another Southwick Saunter	John Chesher	16	18
Sun 11 March	Mursley Meander	Sylvie Eames	15	20
Thurs 22 March	Redbourn Revisited	Gordon Shaughnessy	15	18
Sun 25 March	Ouse-ing with Interest	John Ledger	20	14
Sun 1 April	The Buntingford Buffoon Bonanza	Steve Smith	18	22
Thurs 12 April	Over the Boarder Down Foxton Way	Roger Story	15	17(2)
Sun 15 April	Escapade from Sundon	Therese Jamin	19	14
Sun 22 April	Wheathampstead Wander	Lucy Tink	18	20
Thurs 26 April	Cadsden Caper	John Nickerson	15	15
Thurs 10 May	Royston Ramble	Phil Hasting	15	13
Sun 13 May	The Lagoon, Lookout and Lavender	Philip Nice	20	15(2)
Sun 20 May	Stoke Hammond Hobble	Sylvie Eames	15	11
Thurs 24 May	An Ouse Valley Amble	Gill Bunker	15	18
Thurs 14 June	Roxton	Adrian Moody	13	22
Sun 17 June	Manors, Moots & Unusual Toyshop	Michael Mooney	18	15(2)
Thurs 28 June	The Little and Large Walk	Brian Graves	15	16
Sun 1 July	Tadlow Toddle	Phil Hastings	19	20
Sun 8 July	Stowe Saunter	Sylvie Eames	15	15
Thurs 12 July	Loops to Eat and Drink	R&M Skerman	15	18
Sun 22 July	From Maulden Woods	Gordon Shaughnessy	20	19
Thurs 26 July	The Tunnel Walk	Peter Bearne	15	21(2)
Sun 29 July	Several Parishes Circular	Christine Bramley	16	18
Thurs 9 Aug	A Daventry Round	Roger Story	15	22
Sun 12 Aug	Circling the Quarry	Peter Simon	19	9
Thurs 23 Aug	Just a Stone's Throw	J Greatbatch & I Turnbull	15	24(3)
Sun 26 Aug	The Millbrook Warren Walk	Colin Cargill	20	13(1)
Sun 9 Sept	Hobble to The Hoop	Dee Brockway	19	18
Thurs 13 Sept	Another Walk from Maulden Wood	Gordon Shaughnessy	15	18(3)
Sun 23 Sept	Hartwell Hearts of Oak	Martin Lawson	20	22
Thurs 27 Sept	Park Lane Parade	Colin Scargill	15	18
Sun 30 Sept	Studham Stomp	Peter Hamson	20	8
Sun 7 Oct	Amongst the Spires and Squires	John Ledger	18	9
Thurs 11 Oct	The Two Mills Loop	Derek Jacob	15	15
Sun 14 Oct	We're Off Again	Pete Simon	19	15
Thurs 25 Oct	By Train to Greensand Ridge	Mike Bowley	15	15
Sun 28 Oct	Ambling with Andrew	Andrew Gilbertson	20	9
Sun 4 Nov	Back to Buckland	Phil Hastings	19	17
Thurs 8 Nov	A Chess Valley Walk	Dave Findel-Hawkins	15	15
Thurs 22 Nov	A West Perry Wander	John Chesher	15	26 (3)

Number of social walks - 24 Thursdays 29 Weekends-. Total 53 Number of social walk leaders - 35

Average social walk length Thursdays-15 miles Weekends- 18.28 miles

Average number attending each social walk Thursdays- 18.75walkers Weekends- 18.28walkers.

Total miles walked Thursdays-360miles Weekends-501 miles Total 861 miles

Total number on all social walks -980 (obviously the same folk walked more than once!)

**(f) Merchandising Secretary - Lynn Yorston's report**

Lynn read her report:

Sales of garments have been very slow again. The stock is always taken to the Pick & Mix or Chiltern Kanter in March, the S/S walks in November and to the AGM. 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 are looking into the possibility of adding 'wicking T-shirts' to our stock. I have contacted two suppliers and should have an update in time for the next committee meeting. They would have our logo embroidered on them. The cost will influence the decision .

We have also priced a supply of plastic mugs again with our logo printed onto them. They are to signify our 30th anniversary – more info to follow later in the meeting.

Dave helps me with the merchandise and we are willing to continue looking after the merchandise if the meeting so wishes.

**(g) Equipment – Lynn Yorston's report**

Lynn read her report:

Since the last AGM, the list of equipment and where it lives has been overhauled. I have located just about every item that we should have in our possession. We are only missing a few (5?) elderly folding picnic chairs. If you have them, please let me know.

We have purchased 100 place settings of metal cutlery for use at events. These have been engraved with 'BB&N' – big thanks to Mike Hyland for doing this. (*Appreciative applause for Mike*).

We are also considering the purchase of group aprons and tabards with our logo embroidered on for use at checkpoints and this will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

We are willing to continue co-ordinating the equipment list if the meeting so wishes.

**(h) Webmaster – Merrian Lancaster's report**

Merrian read her report:

The BBN site is hosted by the LDWA, and it doesn't cost us anything.

The site shows:-

- Future events
- Social walk programmes
- Meetings – dates, agendas and minutes of committee meetings and AGMs
- Entry forms, route descriptions, gps files and results for our challenge events
- Pictures and route maps from social walks, mainly Thursday walks
- Newsletters

The walks listed under "Future Events" on the BBN website are downloaded directly from the main LDWA website. Gill inputs the information onto the national website and this information is then downloaded both for Strider and also for the Future Events section of the BBN website. The next walk coming up is the first walk shown; when a walk has taken place it disappears from the list. Click on the walk name for full details, and then click on Street Map for a map showing the

location of the start. The current walks programme is also on the BBN website under Group Activities.

I'm trying to use the site to store as much useful stuff as possible; for example, you can now download the BBN constitution, the LDWA mileage chart and a spreadsheet with simple formulae to help add up the miles. There are also pictures and prices of our BBN merchandise. In the near future I hope to load the list of equipment. Please let me know if there's anything else you think we should store.

A few times I thought I'd successfully loaded documents, only to find the wrong document has been loaded. I promise I don't do it deliberately to find out if you're using the site. As it's happened several times, I don't think it's entirely my fault, so I'll follow that up with the PTB (powers that be).

I'm delighted that several suggestions Gill or I have made for improvements to the template we use to amend the site, have been adopted. Sadly I'm not able to load video with sound, so you didn't get to hear the church bells from one of our Thursday walks, but I intend to try the suggestion from the LDWA's website developer to use YouTube.

With Coral Yorston as my teacher, I created a Twitter account to use on the Games 100 Marshals' walk. It raised some interest but I ran out of ideas when I ran out of sleep. We used it again on the main event, hoping that walkers and their supporters would get involved, but there was little participation.

I've been asked to investigate getting BBN onto Facebook. I'll put something in the next newsletter but I confess its way beyond my abilities, or interest, so I hope someone else will volunteer to take it further.

Andrew Gilbertson asked about the benefit to BBN going on Facebook. Merrian replied that she did not know but would investigate. Simon Leck (National Committee IT) indicated at the recent Local Groups Weekend that he would help local groups if they wanted to use Facebook.

#### **(i) Newsletter - Gill Bunker's report**

Gill read her report:

This is my second stint as Editor of the Newsletter. There have been three issues since the last AGM. I have had plenty of contributions and have thoroughly enjoyed the job, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed (and I have already been sent something for the next one) and also thank Merrian and Kevin Lamming with their help with the printing. About 80 members get their Newsletter through the post, the rest pick it up via the BBN website.

One thing that has changed in the four years since I was last Editor is that back then I actively tried to encourage people to get their copy online to save printing and postage costs. But I now think that some people don't really like reading long documents online and that at best they just scan through them. It costs 50p at present to post each Newsletter and printing works out at roughly 35p per copy, so to post 3 issues costs about £2.55 per member per year. I am not suggesting that all Newsletters be sent via the post, but that while printing costs are relatively low and we have sufficient funds to cover it, those who would prefer to have a hard copy of the Newsletter are welcome to ask for one.

Finally, it's not a job for life. I do enjoy doing it, but will make next year my last.

**(j) Local Groups Representative – Nigel Schofield’s report**

Nigel confirmed he had distributed the Minutes of the LGRs meeting on 18th November.

*Dave Findel-Hawkins then requested, and it was agreed, that item 5 be taken before item 4.*

**5. Proposal that the election of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor be for a fixed term – Dave Findel-Hawkins**

Dave said he proposed that officers be elected for a fixed term of three years. He thought that if people knew the term of service was for a set term this would encourage members to stand for election; this would help to spread the workload and would bring new blood and fresh ideas. He proposed that the fixed term start from the elections at this AGM and relate only to the posts of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

Norman Corrin, speaking from his own experience, felt that it took a good two years to really get into the job and another couple of years to do it, so he would suggest a term of 5 years. Nigel Schofield asked whether an individual could step down before the 5 years were up and Dave F-H confirmed that they could. Andrew Gilbertson said the named officers may all step down at the same time and this may create continuity problems. Dave F-H said that this was the procedure adopted by the National Committee and that there had been no problems. Nigel said that the experience of the National Committee showed that it did work. Dave Sedgley queried why it included the Newsletter Editor; in his experience the Newsletter was not always a committee position.

The proposal was then put to the meeting, with the length of service amended to 5 years:

**The election of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor be for a fixed term of 5 years** (Prop: D Findel-Hawkins, Sec: N Schofield) and was AGREED: For 29, Against 0, Abstentions 4.

In answer to a question from Janet Presland, it was confirmed that if no-one is willing to stand for the position the existing officer could be re-elected.

**4. Election of Officers**

Norman took over conduct of the meeting for the election of the Chairman. Nigel was unanimously re-elected (Prop: S Clark, Sec: D Findel-Hawkins).

Merrian Lancaster indicated that she was willing to stand as Secretary (Prop: G Bunker, Sec: M Lawson) and Norman Corrin indicated that he would like to stand as a committee member (Prop: N Schofield, Sec: M Lancaster). There were no other nominations.

The 2013 Committee was elected as follows:

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| (a) <b>Chairman</b>               | <b>Nigel Schofield</b> Prop: S Clark, Sec: D Findel-Hawkins   |
| (b) <b>Secretary</b>              | <b>Merrian Lancaster</b> Prop: G Bunker, Sec: M Lawson  |
| (c) <b>Treasurer</b>              | <b>Ian Sage</b> Prop: M Lawson, Sec: L Tink   |
| (d) <b>Social Walks Secretary</b> | <b>Dee Brockway</b> Prop: A Gilbertson, Sec: N Corrin   |
| (e) <b>Committee Members</b>      | <b>Gill Bunker, Norman Corrin, Dave Findel-Hawkins, Martin Lawson, Gordon Shaughnessy, Lynn Yorston</b> |

(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         | Merrian Lancaster   |
| (vi) Minute Secretary        | Gill Bunker         |

(g) **Cheque Signatories** Ian Sage, Nigel Schofield, Merrian Lancaster

**5. Item 5 has already been discussed before item 4.**

**6. Subscriptions for 2013 and – Proposal to pay for more than 1 year**

Dave Findel Hawkins said that a lot of members did not like writing a cheque for only £1 and had asked if they could pay for more than one year. He was therefore proposing that group subscriptions could be paid for up to 5 years. There would be no refund and the Membership Secretary would be responsible for reminding members when their subscriptions fell due. Prop: D Findel-Hawkins, Sec: T Brown and **AGREED**.

**IT WAS AGREED** following the Treasurer's recommendation that subscriptions for 2013 would remain at £1.

**7. Group Finances/Donations**

Ian Sage, as Treasurer, said that some provision needed to be made for the various 30th anniversary plans for 2013 as consideration would be given to some form of financial subsidy. He also confirmed the donations already made to the Berks Oxon and Bucks Air Ambulance, the Wendover Arm Trust and the Chiltern Society for a kissing gate. Nigel requested that if any member had a suggestion for a charitable donation they refer it to a committee member for discussion as the next committee meeting.

**8. BBN Challenge Events**

**(a) Shillington Shuffle 2011 & "SS" Events - Lynn Yorston**

Lynn read her report:

**Shillington Shuffle 2011**

This took place two weeks before the last AGM but falls within this year's remit. We had 285 people who finished their chosen route, 2 retirees and 1 timed out. 24 completed the marshals' walk. The event went with only minor problems and we had a lot of great feedback.

As there was a fair excess of funds, we made a donation to the Bedford Hospital Critical Care Unit in memory of Sylvia Foster (John Nickerson's sister) who had been a regular helper for many previous years at this November event.

The football club which we use for over flow car parking had double booked us which led to a confrontation between us and the footballers. It was a difficult place to be but a compromise was agreed.

### **Sundon Saunter 2012**

We have now held the Sundon Saunter which was the second event for the Triple Challenge. Again, the football club let us down, but with 2 weeks' notice this time. We secured more than enough parking at the local Academy and will try to repeat this next year, avoiding the football club altogether. The full report will be covered in the 2013 AGM.

### **Steppingley Step 2013**

Route planning for the 2013 Steppingley Step is well in hand thanks to David Findel-Hawkins. The date is still to be confirmed.

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 now start organising the badges and certificates for the Triple ready for the SS in 2013.

Lynn confirmed that there had been 270 walkers on the 2012 Sundon Saunter with one retiree. She confirmed that they had yet to work out how many people have done the first two events and are likely to be going for the Triple in 2013.

### **(b) Pick & Mix 2012 - Lynn Yorston**

Lynn read her report:

The 2012 Pick & Mix was an experience and more. We had every season you could imagine over the 10 hours of the event. It rained, it blew a gale, the sky went from bright to dark as night AND IT SNOWED A BLIZZARD !! At one point, at the water stop for the 12 mile route, the temperature dropped by a good 10 degrees over the space of 15 minutes. For those who braved the weather, the vegetable casserole at the end was a literal life saver. We give a special mention to Brian Layton who put in a sterling effort to complete 4 loops which amounted to 33 miles – and he was wearing shorts all day too !!! We also had 3 under 18 year olds who also carried on regardless of the weather which can only be described as just awful.

We are, however, happy to continue with this event in 2014 if the group so wishes.

It was agreed that the event would be continued.

### **(c) Chiltern Kanter 2013 - Norman Corrin**

Norman read his report:

The date for the Chiltern Kanter in 2013 is Sunday 3rd March 2013, the marshals' walk being the previous Sunday 24th February. It has reverted back to the normal date of the first weekend in March.

The event starts from a new venue this year, the Pitstone Memorial Hall and parking at the hall will be for the event marshals only. Parking for entrants is 7 minutes' walk away at Goodrich Engineering who have very kindly allowed us to use their premises. With 200-300 spaces that should be sufficient!

There will be a choice of 3 distances 26, 18 or 13½ miles starting at 8 a.m. and all to finish by 6 p.m. The routes by various combinations will encompass the Tree Cathedral at Dunstable, the Bridgewater Monument and Ivinghoe Beacon. But not all routes will go to all of these points.

It will also give many of our members who've not been out that way since the Kanter in 2009 the opportunity to visit the BBN memorial bench in honour of our two founder members Chris Meredith OBE and Chris Goodman. The bench is located near the Ivinghoe Village Centre.

The route will also go past the Bridge 4 on the Wendover Arm canal where BBN has just had a plaque installed.

As with all events many hands make light work. If you've not marshalled on an event before then why not try it - it is great fun being the other side of the desk. But don't expect to lose any weight! If anyone is interested in marshalling on the day, then please contact me.

Norman said he would like to thank Mike Hyland for all the help he had given.

Nigel asked whether Goodrich Engineering wanted any payment or a charitable donation for the use of their car park. Norman confirmed that he had already asked them and they had said they did not - with community spirit, they were happy to help.

## **9. LDWA Hundreds**

### **(a) Games 100 2012 - Norman Corrin**

Norman said this had been an epic event, with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the weather ..... One thing he would comment on as Entries Secretary was that he was impressed with online entries via SI Entries - about 85% of walkers had entered online and this had made things very much easier. He would certainly recommend it to future 100 organisers. The BBN CP at Mottingham had worked extremely well.

### **2012 100 Marshals' Event - Lynn Yorston**

Been there - done that - and got the T-shirt !!

May we give a massive thanks to all who helped on what was an absolute success. Everything went to plan. We had 43 walkers who started in near perfect but cool weather. Unfortunately, by the Saturday evening, the weather changed, it started to pour with rain and the temperature dropped. By the time the walkers were arriving for breakfast, they were very cold and wet. They even reported ice on top of the car that served as the Staple Hill checkpoint over Sunday night !!

As for the checkpoint and support teams - all the people who said they would help us, turned up on time and at the right place. They all did a fantastic job and most were BB&N members. No walker or support team went hungry or thirsty. We didn't lose any walkers. We had no reported injuries or incidents. Our congratulations go out to all who set off. Well done to all who finished. Those who did not complete still deserve the admiration of us who stayed behind.

We have had many letters of thanks from our walkers to pass on to our helpers. Your hard work was greatly appreciated by all.

### **Merchandise for The Games 100**

The orders for the garments were slow to start with but gathered momentum after the Marshals walk. We sold a total of 266 garments.

The only garment left unsold was actually produced by mistake and therefore not charged for. If anyone has any thoughts on what we can do with it, please get back to me.

**It is a T-shirt size XXXL and measures a 56" chest**

**(b) Cornwall & Devon 2013 – Merrian Lancaster**

Merrian said BBN would be at CP 2, a lovely barn; further information to follow. Offers of help to Merrian.

Dave and Lynn Yorston will be representing BBN on the marshals' event at the 80 mile checkpoint.

**(c) South Wales 2014 – Merrian Lancaster**

Merrian confirmed the BBN CP was a tent in a pub car park; further information to follow. Offers of help to Merrian.

**10. LDWA 40th Anniversary 2012**

Nigel said that the day of the BBN 40th anniversary walk - 23rd September - had been extremely wet with only 4 walkers continuing into the afternoon. Nigel said there would be a special section in December Strider about the anniversary walks with photos of the various anniversary cakes.

**11. BBN 30th Anniversary Celebrations 2013**

Norman outlined current plans:

- (i) **A Walk and Canal Boat Trip in the Chilterns** – Norman said he was in contact with Grebe Canal Cruises. This would be in June or August, a walk followed by a 3 hour cruise with meal. The cost of the canal trip is £20 per person but it has been agreed there may be scope for the trip to be subsidised from group funds;
- (ii) **A Walk including a Tour of the Chiltern Brewery**– This will be on Saturday May 18th (the brewery does not do tours on Sundays)
- (iii) There is a new brewery– the **Malt Brewery**– open in Prestwood and it may be possible to include a visit on a walk later in the year;
- (iv) **A Quiz** in October. Organised by Norman and Steve Smith.
- (v) **The Doghouse** – 6th January 2013. **A New Year walk and Lunch**;
- (vi) **3 x 30km group walks** – one in each of our counties co-ordinated by Martin Lawson. Full details remain to be confirmed, and one walk may be on a Saturday to include a visit to a Brewery. Provisionally Sue Leonard will lead in Beds on 30th June (tbc); Dave Yorston will lead in Bucks on 27th July, and Martin will lead in Northants on 22nd September.
- (vii) **A 30 mile group walk** led by Chris Bent from Whittlebury on Saturday 22nd June.
- (viii) **A Commemorative BBN Mug for all BBN members**– The committee is proposing to give a BBN commemorative plastic mug to all BBN members.
- (ix) **Walking Milton Keynes Boundary Walk** - Sylvie Eames is co-ordinating walking the MK Boundary Walk over 3 consecutive days, Saturday 19th, Sunday 20th and Monday 21st October – the walks will be led by Sylvie, Steve Clark and Gill Bunker.
- (x) **Walking the Bunyan Trail** – Earlier this year the organiser of the Bedfordshire Walking Festival contacted us to say that the 70 mile Bunyan Trail in Bedfordshire has been re-signposted and would we be interested in walking it out? The consensus was that we'd prefer to walk it over 4 days over a couple of weekends. This is a linear event and the Festival organisers would be willing to provide minibus transport.  
The Festival runs from Saturday 7th September to Sunday 15th September 2013 and they have suggested the weekend preceding the Festival and the first weekend of the Festival



for the Bunyan Trail. This would leave the Greensand Ridge Challenge in its established place on the last weekend of the Festival.

## **12. Group Activities – Weekends – Social Events**

- (i) Andrew Gilbertson said he is organising a weekend at Bretton Youth Hostel on 14th/15th/16th June 2013. This was not a BBN weekend but BBNers are welcome to join the weekend.
- (ii) Chris Bent and Frances Craven are organising a BBN weekend at Deepdale Granary hostel on the Norfolk Coast on 22nd/23rd March 2013. It is thought there are only two places left.

Nigel said if anyone had any ideas for a social event, please get in touch with the Secretary.

## **13. A.O.B.**

Dave Yorston asked whether the issue of some challenge events taking only online entries had been raised at the LGRs' meeting, Nigel confirmed that it had and it had been agreed that there should be no discrimination and LDWA challenge events should accept entries both online and by post.

Nigel thanked everyone for attending the meeting and hoped everyone had a safe journey home.

The meeting closed 3.45 pm

The first committee meeting for the year 2012-2013 will be held on Friday 25th January at 1 Abbey Way, Bradville, Milton Keynes, MK13 7AN at 7.45 pm

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