

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION : BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2013
RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, EMERSON VALLEY, MILTON KEYNES

The meeting commenced at 2.05pm

Present: 27 Christine Bramley, Dee Brockway (Social Walks), Gill Bunker (Newsletter), Norman Corrin (Committee Member), John Davies, David Findel-Hawkins (Membership), Andrew Gilbertson, Jenny Greatbatch, Gill Howe, Mike Hyland, Sandra Hyland, Therese Jamin, Merrian Lancaster (Secretary), Alan Leadbetter, John Ledger, Stephen McMorro, Graham Missing, Josephine Pettifer, Ian Sage (Treasurer), Pat Sage, Nigel Schofield (Chairman), Gordon Shaughnessy (Thursday Walks), Mooi Simon, Peter Simon, Lucy Tink, Dave Yorston, Lynn Yorston (Merchandising/Equipment)

Guest: Kathy LoRaso

1. Apologies

Chris Bent, Beryl Bowley, Mike Bowley, Teresa Brown, Jackie Burnett, Roy Carter, Eric Cartwright, Jim Catchpole, Steve Clark, Frances Craven, Geoff Curnock, Sybil Davies, Sylvie Eames, Caroline Entwistle, Mick Entwistle, Ian Franks, Brian Graves, Jill Green, Phil Hastings, Mary Knight, Martin Lawson, Brian Layton, Jane O’Dea, Roger O’Dea, Marcus Rogers, Margaret Skerman, Roger Skerman, Pearl Smith, Steve Smith, Ria Sonder, Dianne Sutton, Jonathan Venning

2. Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising

Facebook – Andrew Gilbertson asked about Facebook. Merrian said that since the last AGM she has been in touch with Simon Leck, LDWA Internet Officer, and Simon has confirmed he will help anyone volunteering to set BBN up on Facebook.

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

Prop: Lynn Yorston, Sec: Lucy Tink.

3. Officers’ Reports

(a) Chairman: Nigel Schofield’s report:

Nigel read his report which had been circulated before the meeting:

Welcome to the 2013 AGM. I hope that you all enjoyed the walk this morning and that those who had lunch at the Clocktower or Raj Douth or were self-sufficient are suitably refreshed and content. I would like to thank Dave and Merrian on your behalf for leading the walk this morning and to Merrian for organising the lunch and for organising her first BBN AGM today (a triple whammy!)

Congratulations to those in BBN who completed the marshals’ walk and the main event on the Camel Teign 100 and commiserations to those who did not. Thanks to all who marshalled on both events and the weather was so good for a change on this LDWA flagship event. The Welsh 100 next year promises to be a longer version of the Rhondda Rollercoaster and therefore good luck to those who have entered the marshals’ and the main event – cross all digits that the Welsh weather does not live up to its reputation. Please contact Norman with offers of help in marshalling on the marshals’ event or the main event. The BBN checkpoint on the main event is at a pub, what a surprise! In 2015 Norman will also be the BBN co-ordinator for the Red Rose 100 so please let him know as soon as you can if you can help in any way.

The last 12 months for your Committee has been the usual three Committee meetings as well as the organisation of challenge events, the social walks calendar, accounts, merchandising and equipment.

I would like to reconfirm that BBN being part of the LDWA under its Constitution are required to hold Committee meetings and an AGM as we handle cash and all accounts are audited (Thanks Phil) and thanks to Ian Sage for becoming very adept as BBN Treasurer. Thanks to Merrian, Dave, Dee, Ian, Norman, Martin, Gordon (Thursday walks), Gill and Lynn for their support to BBN and from me as Chairman because you have to volunteer to do Committee work and at each meeting I am always pleasantly surprised as to what has been done since the last meeting. We should be very grateful to your Committee for what they do for you and BBN. And a personal thank you to Gill for her minute taking, BBN newsletter and birthday cards.

Thanks also to Frances Craven and Chris Bent for organising the BBN walking weekend in Norfolk.

And immense thanks to all organisers and leaders for the 30th Anniversary walks and the Canal cruise and Brewery visit. I was able to complete the 3 x 30 km walks and the 1 x 30 mile walk, all good strolls in our three counties.

Two challenge events this year: the Chiltern Kanter and Steppingley Step. Great weather on both event days but it was very wet on the Step Step Marshals. I understand that Dave and Merrian provided top support (again) on the Step Step Marshals. We also received valuable assistance from Ramblers RIPPLE Group and the Central Beds Rights of Way Officer on the three routes of the triple S-S Events. A big thank you to all those who marshalled on the events (too many to name – sorry). There were quite a few new marshal faces on all three S-S events which was very encouraging, as was the number of entries on the Steppingley Step. Was 331 a record entry for a triple distance event? There were 261 walkers and runners who started and those pesky runners were out in numbers in the Bedfordshire countryside. Steve Clark and I assisted runners twice with their navigation and then there were 3 runners who missed out CP2 and had to go back – nothing ever seems to change on Challenge events.

This is my seventh and final annual report as Chairman to the BBN. Looking back at the last seven years pride of place must still go to those individuals who have been on the Committee during my tenure. Many, many thanks to 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 manage to fit 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 in the last 12 months 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 what is left of the 2013 Autumn programme and as much as you can of the forthcoming 2014 programme that Dee is co-ordinating for you. We will always need new leaders and new walks – have a chat with Dee or Gordon and they will find you a ‘free’ Sunday or Thursday. Please support ‘Santa’ on 15th December – his neat tring a ling ding – bring a pressie for Secret Santa and not forgetting his two pixie helpers seen out and about on the recce.

Although it has been an enjoyable seven years as BBN Chairman I think that it is right for me to stand down to give someone else a chance to be your Chairman and therefore I will not be seeking re-election.

May I wish good luck and fair weather to my successor and all committee members – remember all voluntary groups only exist because of volunteers – please don’t think that you can’t do anything. All offers of help are always most welcome.

And to conclude - 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 31st and subsequent years.

PS. Please put Sunday 20th July 2014 in your walking diary. If you feel you would like to try a bit of a longer walk in a day then I will be organising 'Walk the Greensand Ridge'. Coach from Leighton Buzzard (early!) to Gamlingay, breakfast at Northill, lunch at Ampthill and tea at Woburn. This walk will be LED in sections by your BBN mates and is a BBN social walk –not a Challenge Walk. First applications for BBN members only with a maximum of 40 walkers and a provisional cut-off date of 20th June 2014 for BBN entries. If we do not have 40 BBN walkers at 20th June 2014 we will invite our neighbouring LDWA groups. There will be a charge to cover costs and an application form to complete. And of course a certificate for those who finish.

Nigel confirmed there would be further details of the Greensand Ridge Walk in the next Newsletter. There were no questions following Nigel's report.

Norman thanked Nigel for his seven years as an excellent and admirable Chairman.

(b) Secretary: Merrian Lancaster's report:

Merrian's report had been circulated prior to the meeting:

Thank you to Brian Graves for devising today's walk, based on my request to visit the Blue Lagoon, and to Dave for walking it out twice and leading us this morning.

- Spare Striders. We get 15-20 copies of each edition to distribute as we choose. Traditionally we've sent these to libraries in our patch but it might be better to have them at our events and social walks. I picked up a box of spare copies at the LGR meeting to save them from being pulped. Please help yourselves and give them to friends, family, doctors, etc.
- Emails. Received and responded to emails from general public.
- Facebook – let me know if you're interested in setting up something for BBN and I'll put you in touch with Simon Leck, the LDWA internet officer, who is happy to help.
- Regular news updates put onto the website and link emailed to members.
- BBN AGM 2012 Minutes and Accounts sent to John Batham (Local Groups Secretary) 20th June 2013.
- Everything that needs it, is now covered by a PAT certificate.
- Arranged three committee meetings. Thank you to Lynn and Gill for hosting the meetings.
- Provisional dates for committee meetings in 2014 are 30th January, 29th May and 25th September.
- Provisional date for AGM 2014 – Sunday 30th November 2014. Dave and Lynn Yorston have offered to organise the 2014 AGM. Thanks, and yippee, and phew.

Huge thank you to Gill and Norman for doing all the stuff I don't want to do, and for putting up with my rants.

Nigel said if anyone had any ideas how the spare Striders could be best used, please speak to Merrian. There were no questions following Merrian's report.

(c) Treasurer: Ian Sage's report:

Ian summarised his report which, together with the Statement of Income and Expenditure (p.5), had been circulated prior to the meeting:

1. Accounts have been prepared for 1st October 2012 to 30th September 2013.
Total balance up from £6439.55 to £6726.43, an increase of £286.88.
2. The accounts have been checked by Philip Friede's company and found to be in order. They will be signed when approved by the AGM.
3. Donations this year of £50 to Wendover Arm Trust and £150 to Chiltern Society.
4. Membership – up from £150 to £383 due to many members electing to pay for multiple years' membership. Therefore, membership income is expected to be down in the current year to less than £100.
5. Merchandise Purchases

LDWA 40th anniversary badges	£20.00	
Triple Challenge badges	£207.90	
6. Equipment Purchases

Tabards and aprons	£186.24	
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7. 30th Anniversary Costs

Canal walk	£303.00	
John Bunyan Trail	£30.00	(£90 banked in FY2014)
Cake for Sue Leonard's walk	£32.00	
Quiz	£128.81	(all in FY2014)
8. Sundon Saunter 2012 expenses:

income	£1660.00	(inc FY2012)
expenditure	£927.16	
surplus	£732.84	
9. Chiltern Kanter 2013 expenses

income	£968.25	
expenditure	£724.34	
surplus	£243.91	
10. Given the healthy state of our bank balance, I recommend no change to the annual membership fee.

There were no questions following Ian's report. It was proposed, Dave Yorston, and seconded, Dave Findel-Hawkins, that the Accounts should be accepted and this was AGREED. Ian confirmed he would arrange for the Accounts to be signed.

LDWA BEDS/BUCKS/NORTHANTS GROUP
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
1st October 2012 - 30th September 2013

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
	£	£
INTEREST	1.62	5.10
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS	383.00	150.00
MERCHANDISE	92.50	94.00
MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	313.00
SHILLINGTON SHUFFLE 2011	0.00	1429.78
PICK N MIX 2012	0.00	714.00
SUNDON SAUNTER 2012	1592.00	68.00
CHILTERN KANTER 2013	968.25	0.00
STEPPINGLEY STEP 2013	194.00	0.00
DERBYSHIRE WEEKEND 2012	0.00	390.00
DEEPPDALE WEEKEND 2013	500.00	0.00
CHILTERN BREWERY WALK	105.00	0.00
HOUSMAN 100 CONTRIBUTION	0.00	200.00
CANAL TRIP	355.00	0.00
JOHN BUNYAN TRAIL WALKS	170.00	0.00
	4361.37	3363.88
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
	£	£
PRINTING & POSTAGE	269.49	186.57
MERCHANDISE	227.90	0.00
EQUIPMENT	186.24	0.00
DONATIONS	200.00	300.00
MISCELLANEOUS	162.84	364.20
SHILLINGTON SHUFFLE 2011	0.00	596.46
PICK N MIX 2012	0.00	213.98
SUNDON SAUNTER 2012	927.16	0.00
CHILTERN KANTER 2013	724.34	0.00
STEPPINGLEY STEP 2013	0.00	0.00
DERBYSHIRE WEEKEND 2012	0.00	420.00
DEEPPDALE WEEKEND 2013	370.00	90.00
DEEPPDALE WEEKEND 2014	90.00	0.00
CHILTERN BREWERY WALK	105.00	0.00
HOUSMAN 100 CONTRIBUTION	10.00	140.00
CHRISTMAS WALK	33.52	0.00
CANAL TRIP	658.00	0.00
JOHN BUNYAN TRAIL WALKS	110.00	0.00
	4074.49	2311.21
INCOME	4361.37	
EXPENDITURE	4074.49	
SURPLUS(LOSS)	286.88	
30/09/12	6439.55	
BALANCE 30/09/13	6726.43	
REPRESENTED BY		
NatWest Current Account	2724.74	
NatWest Business Reserve Account	4001.69	
	6726.43	

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

Dave's report had been circulated prior to the meeting:

We have had 27 new members since the last AGM. We have unfortunately lost 22 of which 9 are no longer members of the LDWA in our area. We therefore now have a membership, up five from last year, of 169.

64 members have chosen to pay for more than one year.

I've emailed Norman details of 52 new LDWA members who have come into our catchment area since the last AGM. Norman has contacted them either by telephone calls or emailed/posted information pack.

We have 297 primary members on the LDWA website.

Dave confirmed he would be collecting 2014 subscriptions after the meeting. There were no questions following Dave's report.

(e) Social Walks Secretary (including Thursday Walks): Dee Brockway's report:

Dee read her report which had been circulated prior the meeting:

I trust everyone can at least see of a copy of the Social Walks Statistics. 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. We tolerate any mistakes (and we all make them) with support, if also mild amusement.

At this point I always thank Gordon for the excellent work he does in co-ordinating the Thursday programme, and this year is no exception. Thank you Gordon for ensuring two Thursday walks were on offer every single month.

Thanks also to Gill B for proof reading and correcting my inevitable errors and inputting it all onto our website.

It is, of course, our 30th anniversary year, and I hope you all agree that our programme of walks and activities has served as a tribute to this important milestone. I have a slot later in the agenda to précis our anniversary activities, so enough said for now.

One only has to glance at the various group social walk programmes in 'Strider' to agree that, at BBN, ours are as numerous and varied as they come. We offer quantity and quality. Quantity - 61 social walks this year...wow! Quality - we have enjoyed excellent routes and scenery throughout our 3 counties, very often enhanced by the leader's knowledge of local history and places of interest.

Right, now the formidable statistics! A total of 61 social walks, 22 on a Thursday and 37 at the weekend, 1 on Boxing Day and 1 on a Monday. If you had chosen to do all of these you could have

covered a staggering total of 1,002 miles whilst following 39 different leaders. Highest attendance was 33 walking before our October quiz, with Santa's loyal following of 28 a close second.

To the future. The programme for the first four months of 2014 is now finalised and published. Volunteer leaders are welcomed and indeed encouraged for the remainder of the year. I realise that the final date for the necessary information is a long time before the walk, but Strider and our own newsletter deadlines dictate this. Walks for May to August by the 10th January please.

We already have two exciting events planned, a second 3 day visit to the Deepdale Hostel on the North Norfolk coast from Friday 14th to Sunday 16th March and a supported led social walk along our 40 mile Greensand Ridge Walk on 20 July.

I would, if elected, be happy to continue for an 8th year as Social Walks Secretary.

Thank you.

Gordon confirmed that he also needed details of Thursday walks by 10th January.

Dee asked that anyone intending to go on the Deepdale weekend contact Chris Bent as soon as possible as Chris was concerned at the current low take up rate.

There were no questions following Dee's report.

BBN Social Walks Report Nov 2012 – Nov 2013

DATE	WALK	LEADER	DISTANCE (Miles)	No.WALKERS (Non -Mem)
Sun 2 Dec	A Walk To Bozeat	Roy Carter	17	11
Thurs 6 Dec	More Northampton Round	David Findel-Hawkins	15	19
Sun 9 Dec	Santa From Sandy	Norman Corrin	12	28
Sun 16 Dec	Ashridge and Golden Valley	John Davies	19	12
Wed 26 Dec	The Rudolph Ramble	Roy Carter	10	12
Sun 6 Jan	In The Dog House Again	Norman Corrin	9	14
Thurs 10 Jan	Rushmere Revisited	David Sedgley	15	24
Thurs 24 Jan	Four Counties Walk	Anne Addison	15	14
Sun 27 Jan	Lakemill Wonder	Christine Bramley	16	21
Sun 3 Feb	Ever Done Everdon?	Andrew & Gill Gilbertson	17	21
Sun 10 Feb	Stomping to Fenny	Sylvie Eames	15	13
Thurs 14 Feb	A Walk from Little Paxton	Peter Bearne	15	14
Sun 17 Feb	Greenfield Gallivant	David Sedgley	20	28
Thurs 28 Feb	Around Olney	Jenny Greatbatch & Ian Turnbull	15	25
Sun 10 March	Ouseing with Rails & Mills	John Ledger	20	12
Thurs 14 March	The Whaddon Chase	David Findel-Hawkins	15	24
Sun 17 March	Walk from Shefford	Terry Brown	19	14
22-24 March	BBN Weekend in Norfolk	Chris Bent		
Thurs 28 March	Down, Flat Out then Up	Gordon Shaughnessy	15	18
Sun 7 April	Source of the River Lea	Therese Jamin	18	12
Thurs 11 April	Greyhounds and Badgers	Roger & Margaret Skerman	15	18
Sun 14 April	A Lover's Knot	Gabriel Newfield	20	18
Thurs 25 April	A Totter from Totterhoe	Ruth Bowles	15	22
Sun 28 April	Stewkley and Cross Paths	Sylvie Eames	15	12
Thurs 9 May	Clay Way to Coachway	Mike Bowley	15	21

Sat 18 May	The Great BBN Brewery Visit	Graham Missing & David Findel-Hawkins	15	11
Thurs 23 May	In the Steps of Lady Di	Martin Lawson	15	11
Sun 9 June	The Silverstone Slip	Sylvie Eames	15	15
Thurs 13 June	Baldock Bumble	Phil Hastings	15	13
Sat 22 June	Celebrating BBN's 30th	Chris Bent	30	16
Thurs 27 June	The Wootton Wander	Derek Jacob	15	16
Sun 30 June	30km in Beds	Sue Leonard	30km	23
Sun 7 July	Pootle to Park Lane	Phil Hastings	19	13
Thurs 11 July	The Old New GR	Margaret & Roger Skerman	15	18
Thurs 25 July	A Covert Walk	Roger Story	15	18
Sat 27 July	30km in Bucks	Dave & Lynn Yorston	30km	13
Sun 11 Aug	Wheathamstead W'bout	Gordon Shaughnessy	18	34
Thurs 15 Aug	A Walk from Wilstead	Colin Scargill	15	16
Sun 18 Aug	Canal Boat Cruise	Norman Corrin	15	34
Sun 25 Aug	Mellow Yellow and Beyond	John Ledger	20	12
Thurs 29 Aug	Northants Round: Cogenhoe-Holcot	David Findel-Hawkins	18	25
Sat 31 Aug	John Bunyan Trail Part 1 Cranfield to Harlington	Eric Cartwright	21	9
Sun 1 Sept	John Bunyan Trail Part 2 Barton to Harlington	Dee Brockway	19	11
Sat 7 Sept	John Bunyan Trail Part 3 Cranfield to Elstow	Derek Jacob	22	15
Sun 8 Sept	John Bunyan Trail Part 4 Barton to Elstow	Therese & Daniel Jamin	18	15
Thurs 12 Sept	On the Edge (of N'amptonshire)	Mary Knight	15	11
Sun 22 Sept	30km in Northants	Martin Lawson	30km	11
Thurs 26 Sept	A Different Baldock Bimble	Phil Hastings	15	15
Sun 29 Sept	The Three AWS Sites	Sylvie Eames	15	10
Thurs 10 Oct	Top Totternhoe	David Findel-Hawkins	15	19
Sun 13 Oct	Steppingley Step Marshals' Walk	Merrian Lancaster		
Sat 19 Oct	MK Boundary Walk Pt 1	Sylvie Eames	20	19
Sun 20 Oct	MK Boundary Walk Pt 2	Steve Clark	20	9
Mon 21 Oct	MK Boundary Walk Pt 3	Gill Bunker	20	8
Thurs 24 Oct	Wind and the Willows	Mike Bowley	15	18
Sun 27 Oct	Quiz 30 Years in Paradise	Norman Corrin	8	33
Sun 3 Nov	STEPPINGLEY STEP CHALLENGE WALKS			
Thurs 7 Nov	Stagsden Stagger	Jenny Greatbatch	18	17
Sun 10 Nov	Amble with Andrew	Andrew Gilbertson	16	7
Sun 17 Nov	Around and about Oundle	Michael Trolove	19	
Thurs 21 Nov	The Buckingham Arm	Brian Graves	15	
Sun 24 Nov	Walk and AGM	Merrian Lancaster	9	
Number of social walks - 22 Thursdays 37 Weekends 1 Boxing Day 1 Monday- Total 61 Number of social walk leaders - 41 Total miles walked - 1,002 Total number on all social walks - (obviously the same folk walked more than once!) 1,000 (yes, exactly).				

(f) Merchandising: Lynn Yorston's report:

Lynn's report had been circulated prior to the meeting:

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 still investigating the possibility of adding 'wicking T-shirts' to our stock, but have no final decision yet.

We are willing to continue looking after the merchandise if the committee so wishes.

Lynn said she had various items at the hall for sale today.

Merrian said Brian Harwood was looking into wicking t shirts.

(g) Equipment: Lynn Yorston's report:

Lynn's report had been circulated prior to the meeting:

We now hold a selection of group aprons and tabards with our logo embroidered on for use at checkpoints. We also hold a large selection of sturdy plastic reusable large and small flat plates, pudding bowls and cups. This saves us having to use disposable ones.

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

Lynn commented that by having a stock of reusable items BBN is doing its bit for recycling and there is a lot less rubbish to take away afterwards.

(h) Webmaster: Merrian Lancaster's report:

Merrian's report had been circulated prior to the meeting:

- The site has photos and reports from nearly all our walks.
- Suggestion to buddy-up included in newsletter June 2013.
- Backup for updating BBN website – Gill and Norman.
- Also included non-BBN photos and reports which are likely to be interesting to members.
- Intend to ask LDWA Internet officer for a site search.

Norman asked what was meant by "a site search". Merrian confirmed this was simply to help find items on the website, e.g. something referred to in her Updates.

Dave Yorston said that some halls, when hired, required a copy of the Association's Certificate of Insurance. Merrian confirmed this was available on the LDWA website (Useful Info – Library). She could put it on the BBN website as well.

(i) Newsletter: Gill Bunker's report:

Gill's report had been circulated prior to the meeting:

There have been the usual three newsletters since the last AGM – thank you to everyone who has contributed to them. Thank you also to Beryl and Mike Bowley who have helped with proofreading and collection of the Newsletter from the printers.

I am happy to continue producing the Newsletter – but having done it for so long I feel I don't have anything new to offer. Is there anyone out there who would like to have a go? The job has changed completely in recent years and is now a lot easier – everything is emailed – no more having to type everything up - no more illegible writing to decipher or random hill names to be checked. When the Newsletter is ready it is simply emailed to the printers. I am wondering if anyone would like to have a go at producing one issue to see how it goes ??? (and one issue does mean one issue). It is a very satisfying job – and of course I would help!

(j) Local Groups Representative: Merrian Lancaster's report:

- LGR meeting 15th-17th November 2013. I've been to my first meeting. I'll circulate the minutes when they're available. I also intend to give my feedback on the weekend to the National Exec and will circulate that and their response.

Merrian said she was a little concerned at the cost of the LGRs meetings. Ian Sage asked how much they cost and Merrian confirmed it was between £3,000 and £4,000. Ian asked how many people attended and whether it was possible to get a breakdown of how the money was spent. Merrian confirmed there had been roughly 30 present, although some were from the National Committee, and only about 18 local groups had been represented. Lucy Tink said it would be a good idea to find how the money was spent; both Merrian and Lucy felt the money could be put to a better use. Merrian agreed to obtain a breakdown of the costs and will report back. Merrian explained that she regularly attends other groups' walks, and meets and exchanges ideas with other groups, but some local group reps only get to meet others at the LGRs meetings. Merrian said she had suggested a one-day meeting next year, but she had been in a minority.

4. Election of Officers

Nigel Schofield had already indicated he would not be standing as Chairman.

In the absence of any other nominations, the following officers were elected unanimously, each via a show of hands:

(a) Chairman: Norman Corrin Prop: Mike Hyland, Sec: Therese Jamin

(b) Secretary: Merrian Lancaster Prop: Lynn Yorston, Sec: Christine Bramley

(c) Treasurer: Ian Sage Prop: Merrian Lancaster, Sec: Lucy Tink

(d) Social Walks Secretary: Dee Brockway Prop: Andrew Gilbertson, Sec: Norman Corrin

(e) Election of Committee Members

Alan Leadbetter indicated he would like to stand for the committee.

Nigel Schofield confirmed he did not wish to stand.

The following committee members were then elected en bloc:

Lynn Yorston, Gordon Shaughnessy, Dave Findel-Hawkins, Gill Bunker, Martin Lawson, Alan Leadbetter.

(f) Appointment of Committee Members to specific roles:

(i) Membership Secretary: Dave Findel-Hawkins

(ii) Merchandising/Equipment: Lynn Yorston

(iii) Webmaster: Merrian Lancaster

(iv) Newsletter: Gill Bunker

(v) Local Groups Representative: Merrian Lancaster

(vi) Minute Secretary: Gill Bunker

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

Ian said he was still endeavouring to get Merrian added as a cheque signatory; he said much of the banking is now done on-line so the signing of cheques is not as critical as it once was, but it would help him if Nigel stayed as a signatory until the paperwork for Merrian was completed.

(Post-AGM Note: Ian confirms that Merrian is now a cheque signatory – the Bank had not sent through the confirmation.)

5. Subscriptions for 2014: Ian Sage

Ian had recommended in his Treasurer's report that subscriptions remain at £1 and this was agreed.

6. Health and Safety/Insurance Issues: Merrian Lancaster's report:

Merrian's report had been circulated prior to the meeting:

- Dogs on walks – link to policy and contact details for Perkins Slade included in newsletter June 2013.
- Michael Mooney's health and safety doc – sent to LDWA National Exec.
- LDWA National Exec are revising the Accident/Incident Reporting Form.

7. Donations/Projects: Norman Corrin's report:

Norman summarised his report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting:

Donations

There were 2 donations that fell in this year's reporting period.

- £50 to the Wendover Arm Trust for the LDWA/BBN plaque on Bridge 4 as suggested by Dave and Merrian. This was part of the route on the Chiltern Kanter and also passed on the 30th Anniversary Canal Boat Walk.
- £150 (also suggested by Dave and Merrian) to the Chiltern Donate-a-Gate Scheme details of which are shown below.

Projects

There were 3 projects which were completed this year.

- The first was the completion of the Chiltern Society Donate-a-Gate scheme. The gate was installed at Lee Bottom near Great Missenden. There will be a social walk connecting this one and the existing gate at Coombe Hill on April 27th.
- The second was the new BBN Logo which was updated by Michael Headley from Kent Group and now adorns our website and, fingers crossed, will be in December 2013 Strider.
- The third was the purchasing of 500 LDWA BBN business cards for group members to hand out on walks (or in supermarkets over fridge cabinets!) to anyone they think might be interested in joining the Association. They will be available for handing out after the AGM.
- The Greensand Ridgeway Bench at Clophill which has been broken will be repaired shortly after several reminders to Central Beds Council (and reminders to me from Merrian!).

8. BBN Challenge Events

(a) Sundon Saunter 2012: David Sedgley's report:

Dave could not be present and Merrian read his report:

When I suggested I had an idea for a new SS route to the committee the thought of a 'triple challenge' proved irresistible! So I spent much of the previous winter jogging around the route writing the route description – most memorably some sunny days with snow on the ground. The route was then checked by other members of the SS committee during the summer.

I have to thank Central Beds Rights of Way officers for their sterling work improving parts of the route. Richard for diverting a path around a muddy, smelly farm onto a more walker friendly line; as well as personally brush-cutting a line through a jungle in a wood. And Gemma, for getting a line of stiles on the short route changed to kissing gates – the work finishing just 3 days before the event. Though we didn't have the same success with the lines of stiles in Chalgrave.

The marshals' walk took place on a dire, wet and gloomy day. Thanks to Dave and Merrian for their support. My main memory is that I seemed to do most of the second half in the dark – despite finishing by 3.30pm.

The day of the event was bright sunshine and blue skies – so all could enjoy the views on the route. Though rain over the previous week or two meant we had the usual SS mud on cross field paths. I had specifically wanted to take the long route through Woburn Park, which was why it ended up as 27 miles, and I know that some who came from further afield particularly enjoyed this section.

For checkpoints we used Sundon Village Hall, the Queen's Head at Tebworth, the cricket pavilion at Eversholt and the Scout Hut at Harlington. All seemed to work well, and though the bar at Tebworth was small it was cosy. The variety of food on offer was appreciated, especially the wraps, and the hot fruit pie and custard at Eversholt was very popular. At HQ we had a great team dishing up beans or spaghetti on toast, and an assortment of puddings. A massive thanks to all those who manned checkpoints and HQ.

Entered: 314 Started: 270 Retired: 1
Completed: 12M: 55; 18M: 82; 27M: 132
Entry income: £1,666 Badge sales/donations: £118.03
Total income: £1,784.03
Expenditure on walk: £901.19 Donation Air Ambulance: £150
Total expenditure: £1,051.19
Excess: £732.84

Thanks to all on the SS committee, and all the marshals who helped to make it a memorable event. The feedback was that most people had a great day – I certainly did.

SS Events: Triple Challenge: Lynn Yorston's report:

Lynn's report had been circulated prior to the meeting:

We have had a good response to the Triple Challenge of consecutive completions of the three events. We have purchased the badges and certificates and handed the first bulk out two weeks ago at the Steppingley Step 2013.

(b) Chiltern Kanter 2013: Norman Corrin's report:

Norman summarised his report which had been circulated prior to the meeting:

This year's Chiltern Kanter was a mixture of something old, something new. The old was that we reverted back to the first weekend in March but the new was all of the venues. Numbers were down to the lowest number of starters for years of 153.

The event started from a new venue at Pitstone Memorial Hall which proved to be a great success and car parking was very kindly provided by Goodrich Power Systems on Pitstone Business Park, which was only 7 minutes' walk from the hall.

This venue allowed us to vary the routes throughout the Chilterns though keeping some of the old routes, in particular enabling all routes to visit the BBN Founders' Memorial Bench and the long route walkers to pass the plaque on Wendover Arm Bridge 4.

All of the checkpoints were indoors (for once no tent) and although it was bitterly cold we were lucky with beautiful sunshine and no rain.

I must thank the helpers at all of the checkpoints as they all provided an excellent service and all of the hall caretakers were very happy with the way we left the checkpoints. They will be happy for us to go back in 2015.

One thing that sticks in my mind is that due to the hall having large glass windows on one side we could see the short and medium route walkers approaching the finish as they walked alongside the fence. There was something very re-assuring about it.

Special thanks to Mike Hyland who processed all of the entries and came up with the routes but was unable to make the event on the day as his mum was 80 that day!

As you can see in the accounts we made a surplus.....eventually Ian! Here's to the next one in 2015!

(c) Pick & Mix 2014: Lynn Yorston's report:

Lynn's report had been circulated prior to the meeting:

The 2014 Pick & Mix is well in hand. The school is booked and we have started checking the routes. A few entries have already been accepted. We are now looking for help at base HQ, so any offers go to Dave Yorston please.

9. LDWA Hundreds: Merrian Lancaster/Lynn Yorston:

(a) Cornwall & Devon 2013: Camel-Teign Ivor's Dream: Marshals' Walk: Lynn Yorston's report:

Along with the help of Sue Leonard, Dave and I represented BB&N on the 'Ivor's Dream 100' marshals' event at the 80 mile checkpoint. The hall was above the Methodist Church in Ashburton - UPSTAIRS. Just what the walkers needed at that stage of the walk. Also, as with any CP, the walkers never realised the problems we faced. On arrival, we found the microwave, fridge and the hot water system had been condemned and disconnected. Great start !!! We really needed them all. Luckily another microwave and fridge were located in the downstairs kitchen and kettles had to supply the hot water. We had a fun time running this site for nearly 24 hours !!!

Main Event: Merrian Lancaster's report:

Thank you to everyone who made the trip to the West Country. Congratulations to everyone who took part in one way or another. There were eleven helping at the checkpoint at Candra, one on driving duty and two at the checkpoint at Princetown. 2 completed the marshals' event, 23 completed the main event, 9 retired on the main event, 2 received their 10 badge.

(b) South Wales 2014: Valleys 100: BBN will be looking after checkpoint 4 in a marquee at Brynffnon Hotel, Llanwonno. 32.4 miles, opens 18.20 closes 01.30. Offers of help to Norman please.

(c) East Lancs 2015: Red Rose 100: BBN will be looking after checkpoint 2, in a village hall.

(d) Dorset 2016: BBN will be looking after CP1, which will be a bucket drop.

(e) North Yorkshire 2017: No information yet.

10. BBN 30th Anniversary Celebrations: Dee Brockway's report:

Dee read her report which had been circulated prior to the meeting:

I am sure, by the time we arrive to this, the 10th item on the agenda, we will already have recaptured many exciting memories from this 30th anniversary year. I think all that remains is for me to list them in full. I have included everything more than the usual led social walk. Please feel free to interject with any further comments or experiences you feel able and willing to share!

December – Santa organised proceedings with the usual carol singing, presents and mince pies. If only I knew who Santa was, I could include him in our thank you acknowledgements.

January – Norman realised his dream to send us all to the Dog House for our New Year Meal.

March – Chris and Frances organised an excellent 2 days walking along the North Norfolk coast, staying 2 nights in the Deepdale Hostel.

May – A great après walk experience. Thanks to John Davies we enjoyed a trip around a local brewery and then learnt how enjoy their best beer and food. It would have been rude not indulge ourselves.

June - Chris Bent led a 30 mile walk from Whittlebury.

June – The first of 30km walks, one in each of our 3 counties. Thanks to Sue Leonard for the experience in Beds, followed by bubbly and a birthday cake.

July – Dave Yorston led the 30km way around Bucks with a chance to visit another local brewery.

August – Thanks to Norman for following his walk with a canal cruise down the Grand Union with a fish and chip supper, drinks and another birthday cake.

August/September – A chance to walk the entire 76 mile Bunyan Trail over 2 weekends. Thanks to Gill Bunker for all the organisation including the transport and co-ordination of the 4 section walk leaders, namely Eric Cartwright, yours truly, Derek Jacobs and Therese and Daniel Jamin.

September – Final 30km in Northants following in Martin Lawson's able footsteps.

October – Three leaders Sylvie Eames, Steve Clark and Gill Bunker led the group around the 67 mile Milton Keynes Boundary Trail over 3 consecutive days.

October - We invited and enjoyed the company of our friends from Essex and Herts, Thames Valley and the London Group. After a short walk, buffet and talk from The Air Ambulance the quiz was conducted in a spirit of healthy competition and good humour. Thanks to Norman and Steve Smith our quiz masters for the day.

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS....WHEN BBN WAS 30 YEARS OLD!

11. Ideas for Group Activities — Weekends — Social Events

Dee said that Roy Carter has indicated he would like to organise walking the North Bedfordshire Heritage Trail over two weekends – with a similar format to the John Bunyan Trail walk earlier this year – and to tie in again with the Beds Walking Festival. The dates are still to be confirmed but will probably be end August/beginning September 2014.

Another brewery visit: Alan Leadbetter suggested Northampton. John Davies said he is looking at other local breweries.

12. A.O.B.

Merrian said December Striders contained a renewal form for LDWA membership. The National Membership Secretary has asked if members not currently paying by direct debit could think about paying this way as this makes a lot less work for him. If paying by cheque, could members please send their cheque promptly as otherwise their membership shows up as lapsed. This means that when payment is received their status has to be changed back manually and their Strider may have to be sent out individually – a lot of avoidable added work.

Merrian said there are some spare waterproof BBN badges if anyone wanted to take one.

Ian Sage said the group has surplus funds not earmarked for any donation. Nigel said if any member has any ideas for a donation, please speak to any committee member. Merrian asked for suggestions of ways of spending money for the benefit the group. Lynn said new smaller water carriers were to be purchased to replace the existing big carriers, which had become difficult to keep clean and were heavy to carry. Nigel enquired about the condition of the BBN tents and Dave Yorston said he would check and see whether they needed replacing.

Lynn confirmed that the new plastic strip floor protector had worked well on the Steppingley Step.

Nigel thanked everybody for attending.

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm

Provisional dates for 2014 committee meetings:

Thursday 30th January

Thursday 29th May

Thursday 25th September

Provisional date for 2014 AGM:

Sunday 30th November