

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION : BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2014
NAPHILL VILLAGE HALL, 79 MAIN ROAD, NAPHILL, HIGH WYCOMBE

The meeting commenced at 2.00pm.

Present: 26 , Dee Brockway (Social Walks), Gill Bunker (Newsletter), Norman Corrin (Chairman), David Findel-Hawkins (Membership), Phil Friede, Andrew Gilbertson, Brian Graves, Geoff Hancock, Gill Howe, Mike Hyland, Sandra Hyland, Paul Keech, Mary Knight, Merrian Lancaster (Secretary), Alan Leadbetter, Stephen McMorrow, Ian Sage (Treasurer), Pat Sage, David Sedgley. Gordon Shaughnessy (Thursday Walks), Mooi Simon, Peter Simon, Pearl Smith, Steve Smith, Dave Yorston, Lynn Yorston (Merchandising/Equipment)

Norman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Lynn and Dave for organising the walk, hall and meal (appreciative applause), and drew attention to the BBN tablecloth displayed on the top table with badges sown on by Lynn.

1. Apologies

David Anderson, Terry Brown, Jackie Burnett, Eric Cartwright, Jim Catchpole, Sybil Davies, Jill Green, Chris Grundy, Phil Hastings, Therese Jamin, Brian Layton, Gaynor Lester, Paul Lester, Graham Missing, Terry Penny, Chris Rhead, Nigel Schofield, Betty Sherry, Dianne Sutton

2. Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes were approved as a true record. Prop: David Findel-Hawkins, Sec: Gordon Shaughnessy
Matters Arising:

Item 2: Facebook: No-one has come forward to progress this.

Item 9(d): BBN checkpoint on the 2016 Dorset100: This is now an indoor checkpoint.

3. Officers' Reports

(a) Chairman: Norman Corrin's report:

Our walking group's slogan is to "Have a great day out, walk with BBN". In 2014 we had several great days out following on from our 30th Anniversary year in 2013.

First of all, I would like to thank my predecessor Nigel Schofield for his efforts as BBB Chairman for all of those years 2006 to 2013 which he sat in the top chair. His philosophy paraphrased from John Fitzgerald Kennedy was to "Ask not what BBN can do for you but what you can do for BBN". In other words you get out what you put in. His decision to step down after 7 years was regrettable but it did mean that there was a rare chance for a Liverpoolian to experience sitting at the top of the table for a year and staying there!

Nigel demonstrated his philosophy in July when being inspired by the Essex Herts "St Peters Way in A Day" he put on a social walk which was 40 miles of The Greensand Ridgeway in a Day. 28 walkers from varied groups of the LDWA were led over several sections by respectively Gill Bunker/Jackie Burnett, Dee Brockway and Dave Findel-Hawkins. We were blessed with glorious weather and for me the lasting memory of a great BBN day out was sitting at Woburn Church on a balmy evening eating a salmon and cucumber sandwich under the watchful eyes of the gargoyles. Totally surreal.

Although the purpose of the LDWA is "to further the interests of those who enjoy long distance walking" without the friendships formed in these pursuits it would be an empty passion. I was very pleased to hear that Sylvie Eames and Dave Norris became engaged this year and I am very much looking forward to the next BBN wedding. We've not had one for a while!

Sylvie's and Dave's happiness is one example of the LDWA philosophy but Brian Layton in September showed the other example when he became only the second person after Rod Holland to complete a Triple Crossing of the Across Wales in a Day. I mentioned this in my Chairman's Chatter column for September but thought it worth mentioning again in my summary of the year. 135 miles in 72 hours is no mean feat of endurance. He belongs in select company.....

Speaking of select company, Dave Findel-Hawkins continued with his role as LDWA National Events Secretary and this gave several members a ready excuse to go to Harrogate to attend the LDWA National AGM and see how decisions are taken at that level and the importance of why all LDWA members should sign up to Direct Debit membership. The amount of administration cut out from the National Membership Secretary's job by doing this is considerable.

There was another side to the AGM where there was, in my opinion, an unnecessary and long drawn out argument about ex-LDWA members being able to keep their old numbers. If you want to keep it don't leave! The final reason for going to the National AGM is you might get the back of your head in the August Strider!

We organised two challenge walks this year, namely the Pick & Mix in March where the weather was a complete contrast to 2012 and the Shillington Shuffle in November, and Lynn and Gordon will be telling you more about those. It is a saying repeated many times, but without those people who volunteer none of these events would ever take place. So thank you to all who not only give up their time on the day but also do the recce-ing, organising food, visiting school/scout huts to check facilities, processing of entries and emailing organisations, things the participants never see.

I said we had two challenge walks this year but next year we will have 3! These are The Chiltern Kanter in March, The Sundon Saunter in November and a new addition to the BBN group of walks, namely the From Here to There and Back organised by Alan Leadbetter, and he will mention more about it later.

I've mentioned the Valleys 100 in other reports so will not want to scare you again and shall move swiftly on.

We've had a busy calendar of social walks both at the weekends and on Thursdays ably organised by Dee Brockway and Gordon Shaughnessy. Inspired by the success of the four days walking of the John Bunyan Trail in 2013 Roy Carter organised another walking excursion which this time covered the 70 miles of the North Bedfordshire Heritage Trail over two consecutive weekends. This takes some organising with the various transport arrangements and although I did not attend by all accounts the walks were a great success.

I would like to thank all of the committee members for their efforts throughout the year, in particular Merrian for her role as Secretary which is the crucial part of any committee. A previous BBN Chairman Adrian Moody said to me once that the Secretary runs the group and that is why we have such a strong reputation amongst the LDWA. If you feel you can contribute something then please do not be afraid to volunteer. You have skills that we can put to great use, or failing that we have Marigold washing up gloves to fit all sizes!

Apologies for those who I've missed out and forgotten to thank but I have no desire to do a Gwyneth Paltrow speech. We've not got the hall for that long!

I'm willing to stand for another year as Chairman.

There were no questions following Norman's report.

(b) Secretary: Merrian Lancaster's report:

Thank you to Lynn and Dave Yorston for organising today's AGM.

- Spare Striders. We've had 15 spare copies of each edition which have been taken to libraries in our patch. I've been unlucky this year with my requests for more copies to have at our events and have received no additional copies.
- Emails. Received and responded to emails from general public.
- Name badges. Now printed on Toughprint waterproof paper which lasts a bit longer than previous attempts. Please let me know if you would like a badge.
- Facebook – please 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 2013 minutes, and accounts, sent to John Batham (Local Groups Secretary) 21 February 2014.
- Attended LDWA AGM 2014 and plan to attend AGM 2015. Please let me know if there's anything you'd like me to raise.
- Arranged three committee meetings. Thank you to Lynn and Gill for hosting the meetings.
- Provisional dates for committee meetings in 2014 are 22nd January, 29th May and 25th September.
- Provisional date for AGM 2015 – Sunday 29th November 2014. It would be good to hold the meeting in the north of our area, please would someone volunteer to organise the AGM in 2015.
- LDWA are proposing changes to the template for the local groups' constitution. The committee will be considering this and put it to our AGM in 2015.

LDWA 100s

- Valleys 100 - South Wales 2014
Thank you to everyone who made the trip across the border. Congratulations to everyone who took part in one way or another. There were 13 helping at the checkpoint Brynffnon Hotel, Llanwonno. Several people helped out at other checkpoints and at the end. 3 completed the marshals' event, 10 completed the main event, 3 first timers (all women), 14 retired on the main event.
- Red Rose 2105 – East Lancs. BBN will be looking after checkpoint 2 at Feniscliffe Church Hall 16 miles, Saturday 23rd May open 13.00 to 1830. Offers of help to Norman please.
- Dorset 2016 BBN will be looking after checkpoint 1 at Crossways. It's an indoor checkpoint.
- North York Moors 2017
- Kent 2018

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

I am pleased to stand for re-election to the committee for 2014/2015. I intend to stand down from the committee at the AGM in November 2015.

There were no questions following Merrian's report.

(c) Treasurer: Ian Sage's report, Statement of Income and Expenditure and Proposal to Accept the Accounts:

1. Accounts have been prepared for 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014.
Total balance down from £6726.43 to £6513.90, a decrease of £212.53
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. Donation of £150 to Ramblers Association Bedfordshire Area (RIPPLE).
4. Membership – income down from £383 to £220. Further members electing to pay for multiple years' membership.
5. Merchandise Purchases
None
6. Equipment Purchases
Including water carriers, flasks, signs & camping tables - £324.63
7. Steppingley Step 2013 expenses:

income	-	£1701.00	(inc FY2013)
expenditure	-	£1216.97	
surplus	-	£484.03	

8. Pick n Mix 2014 expenses:
 income - £866.00
 expenditure - £543.63
 surplus - £322.37
9. Greensand Ridge walk
 income - £700.00
 expenditure - £686.72
 surplus - £13.28
10. Suggestions for how we use our funds are always welcome.

Given the healthy state of our bank balance, I recommend no change to the annual membership fee.

Ian added that the group were subsidising today's AGM meal for those who stayed to the end of the meeting. If anyone has any thoughts on how surplus funds could be used, please speak to any committee member and the suggestion will be reviewed by the committee. Norman is planning a linear walk in 2015 with subsidised transport.

Dee asked about paying subscriptions for multiple years. Dave confirmed that he emails members either asking for the current year's subscription or confirming no need to pay this year.

Ian confirmed to Dave Sedgley that transport on the North Beds Heritage Trail weekends had not been subsidised.

It was proposed, Dave Findel-Hawkins, and seconded, Dave Sedgley, that the Accounts should be accepted and this was AGREED. Ian confirmed he would arrange for the Accounts to be signed. Norman thanked Phil Friede for his assistance with the Accounts.

<u>LDWA BEDS/BUCKS/NORTHANTS GROUP</u>		
<u>STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE</u>		
<u>1st October 2013 - 30th September 2014</u>		
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	£	£
INTEREST	1.59	1.62
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS	220.00	383.00
MERCHANDISE	23.50	92.50
MISCELLANEOUS	5.00	0.00
SUNDON SAUNTER 2012	0.00	1592.00
DEEPDALE WEEKEND 2013	0.00	500.00
DEEPDALE WEEKEND 2014	300.00	0.00
CHILTER KANTER 2013	0.00	968.25
STEPPINGLEY STEP 2013	1507.00	194.00
PICK N MIX 2014	866.00	0.00
SHILLINGTON SHUFFLE 2014	136.00	0.00
CHILTERN BREWERY WALK	103.50	105.00
CAMEL TEIGN 100 CONTRIBUTION	175.00	0.00
CANAL TRIP	0.00	355.00
JOHN BUNYAN TRAIL WALKS	0.00	170.00
GREENSAND RIDGE EVENT	700.00	0.00
TOTAL	4037.59	4361.37

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£	£
PRINTING & POSTAGE	386.26	269.49
MERCHANDISE	0.00	227.90
EQUIPMENT	324.63	186.24
MISCELLANEOUS	66.95	162.84
DONATIONS	150.00	200.00
QUIZ	128.81	0.00
SUNDON SAUNTER 2012	0.00	927.16
CHILTERN KANTER 2013	0.00	724.34
DEEPDALE WEEKEND 2013	15.00	370.00
DEEPDALE WEEKEND 2014	360.00	90.00
STEPPINGLEY STEP 2013	1216.97	0.00
PICK N MIX 2014	543.63	0.00
CHRISTMAS WALK	46.15	33.52
CANAL TRIP	0.00	658.00
JOHN BUNYAN TRAIL WALKS	90.00	110.00
CHILTERN BREWERY WALK	115.00	105.00
HOUSMAN 100 CONTRIBUTION	0.00	10.00
CAMEL TEIGN CONTRIBUTIONS	120.00	0.00
GREENSAND RIDGE EVENT	686.72	0.00
TOTAL	4250.12	4074.49
INCOME	4037.59	
EXPENDITURE	<u>4250.12</u>	
SURPLUS(LOSS)	-212.53	
30/09/13	<u>6726.43</u>	
BALANCE 30/09/14	6513.90	
REPRESENTED BY		
NatWest Current Account	2510.62	
NatWest Business Reserve Account	<u>4003.28</u>	
	6513.90	

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

Up to the end of September we had 29 new members since the last AGM. We have unfortunately lost 13 members. We therefore, at the end of the reporting year, have a membership, up 16 from last year, of 185.

Seven members have still to pay for 2014, but have indicated they wish to stay as members. 90 members have chosen to pay for more than one year.

I've emailed Norman details of all 59 new LDWA members who come into our catchment area since the last AGM. Norman has contacted them either by telephone calls or emailed/posted information packs. We have 298 primary members on the LDWA website. Some BBN members who live in our catchment area are not down as primary members on the LDWA website.

Dave confirmed he would be collecting 2015 subscriptions at the end of the meeting.

Dee asked if it was normal for a local group to have so many primary members. Dave said different local groups deal with membership in different ways. Norman contacts all new LDWA members in the BBN area but not all want to join the local group.

Peter Simon asked about overlapping local group areas and Dave confirmed the area covered by a local group is determined by postcodes. Merrian has a list of post codes which comprise the BBN area.

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

I trust everyone can, at least, see of a copy of the Social Walks Statistics for this our 31st year, 2014. I begin, as always, by thanking all our 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! That said, I think all those who are brave and kind enough to offer their services would agree it is an enjoyable and rewarding experience and it allows many fellow walkers to enjoy a great day out. If you have not yet led a walk, please think about supporting *your* club, by giving it a go. Help and support is always on hand.

At this point I also need to thank Gordon for the excellent work he does in co-ordinating the Thursday programme. Thank you Gordon for ensuring two Thursday walks were on offer every single month. I hope you can continue this task as, whilst I am happy to continue to oversee the weekend programme and co-ordinate things, I still sadly have to work for my living, cannot attend mid-week walks, and so would find this part of the job difficult. Of course, if anyone *would* like to take over my role, which, if elected will be my 9th year, a new face with new fresh ideas would be most welcome. Thanks also to Gill B for proof reading and correcting my inevitable errors and inputting it all onto our website and incorporating it into our excellent newsletter.

This year, following our fantastic 30th anniversary celebratory year, I was always concerned a 'low' may come after a 'high'. This, most definitely, has *not* been the case. I have been required to produce this report before the most recent social walks have taken place, so I cannot include exact figures: please see the sheet in front of you for all these latest facts and startling statistics! I am however happy to report, we have enjoyed, what I believe to be a club record, 40, **yes 40!** weekend social walks. That only left you with 12 weekends devoid of the chance to walk with friends from BBN, and on 3 of those we offered our own 2 challenge events and a Norfolk weekend away. You were given the chance to also enjoy a mid-week Christmas meal, a day out with Santa, a weekend New Year meal and sustenance of another kind during our second visit to the local Chiltern Brewery.

Two events deserve a special mention. Our inaugural 40 mile social walk across the Greensand Ridge Way in a day, in July, attracted 29 entrants and welcomed several friends from other groups. All were provided with an excellent cooked breakfast and lunch indoors en route, and enjoyed a bumper sandwich and homemade cake buffet for tea. A big thank you to the organiser, Nigel, for all his hard work.

Our summer spectacular was completed the following month, when our thanks go to Roy Carter for organising routes, maps and transport, enabling folk to walk the 70 mile North Heritage trail over 4 days and 2 weekends.

To the future. The programme for the first four months of next year is now finalised and published and we can already look forward to a walk in Derbyshire, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Pennine Way and another New Year's meal. My grapevine suggests there is a lot more exciting stuff to come in 2015. I hope you can join us and maybe even lead your first (or another) social walk. Thank you.

Dee apologised for omitting last year's Santa walk from the list of walk and said an amended list of walks and statistics would be included in the Minutes.

Dee confirmed Nigel will organise the Greensand Ridge in a Day again in 2016; he plans to hold it every two years.

Dee said plans are in hand for a BBN weekend in Dorset in September.

Both Dee and Gordon have gaps in the May to August 2015 programme and asked for walk leaders to speak to them at the end of the meeting or to email afterwards.

Norman thanked Dee and Gordon for their efforts in producing an excellent programme of walks.

BBN Social Walks Report 1st Nov 2013 to 31st Oct 2014

DATE	WALK	LEADER	DISTANCE Miles	No. WALKERS
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	9
Thurs 21 Nov	The Buckingham Arm	Brian Graves	15	20
Sun 24 Nov	Walk and AGM	Brian Graves/ Dave Findel-Hawkins	9	22
Sun 1 Dec	Start from the Top	Peter Simon	17	20
Thurs 5 Dec	Two Loops from Linford	Gill Bunker	15	21
Sun 8 Dec	The Mystery of Blisworth Tunnel	Frances Craven	18	15
Sun 15 Dec	Santa wants you to play his Tring a Ling	Santa Claus	15	30
Thurs 19 Dec	Xmas at Wetherspoons	Dave Findel-Hawkins	13	19
Sun 5 Jan	Navigator's Way + New Year Meal	Steve Smith	7	13
Thurs 16 Jan	An Amended Newport Muster	Graham Missing	15	28
Sun 19 Jan	Ridgeway Roundabout	Peter Hamson	19	23
Sun 26 Jan	Another Sundon Saunter	David Sedgley	19	7
Thurs 30 Jan	Something New	Brian Harwood	15	13
Sun 2 Feb	The Tinker from Elstow	Gill Bunker	18	18
Thurs 13 Feb	Stanton Stomp	Anne Addison	15	15
Sun 23 Feb	Towersey & A Disused Railway	Therese Jamin	17	12
Thurs 27 Feb	Eastward Ho!	David Sedgley	15	19
Sun 2 Mar	Huntingdonshire Wolds	Michael Trolove	18	14
Sun 9 Mar	Ashridge Amble	Lucy Tink	18	16
Thurs 13 Mar	Redbourn Re-Run	Gordon Shaughnessy	15	17
Fri-Sun 14/16 March	BBN Walking Weekend Deepdale, Norfolk	Chris Bent		
Sun 23 Mar	Woburn Wander	Sylvie Eames	15	22
Thurs 27 Mar	Coachway to Runway	Mike Bowley	15	15
Sun 6 April	Joining the Church Ends	Ian Sage	18	19
Thurs 10 April	Aylesbury & Wendover Arms	Brian Graves	15	13
Sun 13 April	Ashridge & the Golden Valley	John Davies	19	8
Thurs 24 April	An Amble in the Ouse Valley	Derek Jacobs	15	21
Sun 27 April	Gateways in the Chilterns	Norman Corrin	19	11
Sun 4 May	Up The Telegraph, Around the Deacon	Peter Richards	19	10
Thurs 1 May	Top Totternhoe	Brian Harwood	15	15
Sun 11 May	Bletchley, Caldecote, The Brickhills	Sylvie Eames	15	13
Thurs 15 May	The Royal Summerhouse Shuffle	Colin Scargill	15	16
Thurs 29 May	Watts for Lunch	Gill Bunker	15	17
Sat 31 May	Welland Way	Alan Leadbetter	19	6
Sun 8 June	Mosquitos, Moats, Musket Balls and a Miracle	Michael Mooney	18	8
Thurs 12 June	Three Woods and a Toot	Jim Morrison	15	14
Sat 14 June	Chiltern Brewery Walk	John Davies	15	7
Sun 22 June	Stoke Hammond to Leighton Buzzard & Stockgrove Park	Sylvie Eames	15	10
Thurs 26 June	Baldock Bimble Mk III	Phil Hastings	15	13

Sun 6 July	Midsummer Saunter	Allana & Bill Clare	18	19
Thurs 10 July	Grafton Way Pt 1 (The North)	Graham Missing	15	17
Sun 13 July	The Ultimate Barton Bash	Dee Brockway	21	13
Sun 20 July	The Greensand Ridge in a Day	Gill Bunker/ Dee Brockway/ Dave Findel-Hawkins.	40	29
Thurs 24 July	Gallows and Barrows	Roger & Margaret Skerman	15	14
Sun 27 July	Mill-Wonder	Christine Bramley	16	11
Sun 3 Aug	Barley Bash	Phil Hastings	19	41
Thurs 7 Aug	Another Canal Roundabout	Brian Graves	15	14
Sun 10 Aug	Beds and Hearts	Gabriel Newfield	20	15?
Thurs 21 Aug	Enigmatic Milton Keynes	Mike Bowley/ Dave Findel-Hawkins	15	15
Sun 24 Aug	The Langford Loop	Colin Scargill	20	10
Sat 30 Aug	North Beds Heritage Trail Pt 1	Christine Bramley	18	12
Sun 31 Aug	North Beds Heritage Trail Pt 2	Roy Carter	18	13
Sat 6 Sept	North Beds Heritage Trail Pt 3	Roy Carter	18	7
Sun 7 Sept	North Beds Heritage Trail Pt 4	Roy Carter	18	11
Thurs 11 Sept	Yet More Northampton Round	Dave Findel-Hawkins	15	9
Thurs 25 Sept	Bedfordshire's Northern Outpost	Adrian Moody	16	14
Sun 28 Sept	Westcroft Centre to Whaddon	Sylvie Eames	15	15
Sun 5 Oct	Another Sundon Saunter	David Sedgley	20	12
Thurs 9 Oct	Bugbrooke Spires	Steve McMorrow	15	18
Sun 12 Oct	Mursley Meander	Sylvie Eames	15	13
Sun 19 Oct	Trains, Boats and Planes	Michael Trollove	18	11
Thurs 23 Oct	Dukes Delight	Brian Harwood	15	22

THE STAGGERING STATS!

No. of walks Thursdays 25 Weekends 40 Total 65

No. of different leaders 42

Total no. of walkers on all walks – (obviously the same folk walked more than once!) **968**

Average no. of walkers per walk 15!

Average length of a walk 16.22 miles

No-one attended every walk? If they had they would have walked 1053 miles!

(Anyone up to that challenge next year?).

(f) Merchandising: Lynn Yorston's report:

Sales of garments remain slow. The biggest sellers are the mugs sold at the start of an event when we assure the entrants that we take NO spare cups to checkpoints. The stock is always taken to all our challenge events 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.

Norman has been looking at the purchase of 'wicking T-shirts' to add to our stock. He has taken the first confirmed order from members. We now await to see the resulting garments.

Dave and I are willing to continue looking after the merchandise if the committee so wishes. However, it would be good if some-one comes forward to take this from us at the 2015 AGM. I am willing to stand for election to the committee for another year.

(g) Equipment: Lynn Yorston's report:

We have purchased some giant flasks, some of which are of the pump action type. These will make life at those awkward checkpoints a lot easier. We also have added some more 'beware walkers' signs to use at road crossings.
I am willing to continue co-ordinating the equipment list if the committee so wishes.

Lynn said the updated equipment list would be on the website soon, but members need to keep her informed if they hold any BBN equipment.
Norman thanked Lynn and Dave for the huge amount of work they undertake on behalf of the group.

(h) Webmaster: Merrian Lancaster's report:

- The site has photos and reports from many of our walks. I've found that it's easier to deal with links to other photo storage sites than with photos attached to emails.
- The merchandise page has been updated with details of the new tech tops.
- Backup for updating BBN website – Gill and Norman.
- We have new page banners using photos taken on BBN walks.
- The basic colour of the site has been changed to the nearest available to match our BBN maroon.

(i) Newsletter: Gill Bunker's report::

- There are currently 3 Newsletters each year.
- At the June committee meeting it was agreed to rename the 3 issues Spring, Summer and Autumn – rather than February, June and October – to give more flexibility if the Newsletter needs to be delayed for any reason (postponed committee meeting, the Hundred etc) rather than the Newsletter appearing "late".
- Thank you to everyone who has sent me items this year - one article is already promised for the Spring issue.
- Contributions for the Spring 2015 issue should be with the Editor by 31st January 2015 (If it is agreed that the Newsletter continues in its current format).
- The vast majority of items arrive by email and the finished Newsletter is emailed to the Open University (Milton Keynes) who do all the printing and collating. The Newsletter Editor's job is a very satisfying one – it is relatively simple now and much less time consuming than it used to be.
- If anyone is interested in taking over the Newsletter – I would be happy to help.

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

On behalf of BBN, and following consultation with the other BBN members of the committee, I sent a very detailed response to the questionnaire about the Local Group Reps' weekend. Very few other groups were as diligent and the weekend was cancelled.

Dave F-H and Merrian added, however, that there was likely to be a LGR meeting next year for group reps to discuss proposed changes to the template for the local groups' constitution. Alan indicated he would be willing to attend.

4. Election of Officers

Merrian Lancaster assumed the Chair and by a show of hands Norman Corrin was re-elected as Chairman. The remaining officers were then re-elected en bloc:

- (a) **Chairman: Norman Corrin** Prop: Steve Smith, Sec: Andrew Gilbertson
- (b) **Secretary: Merrian Lancaster** Prop: Norman Corrin, Sec: Gill Bunker
- (c) **Treasurer: Ian Sage** Prop: Alan Leadbetter, Sec: Mike Hyland
- (d) **Social Walks Secretary: Dee Brockway** Prop :Merrian Lancaster, Sec: Dave Findel-Hawkins

(e) Election of Committee Members

Mary Knight indicated she would like to stand for the committee. Gordon Shaughnessy confirmed he did not wish to stand. Martin Lawson was not at the meeting.

The remaining committee members indicated they were willing to stand for re-election.

There were no other nominations and the following committee members were elected en bloc:

Lynn Yorston, Gordon Shaughnessy, Dave Findel-Hawkins, Gill Bunker, Alan Leadbetter, Mary Knight

Prop: Dee Brockway; Sec: Andrew Gilbertson

(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: Alan Leadbetter**
- (vi) **Minute Secretary: Gill Bunker**

(g) Cheque Signatories: Ian Sage, Norman Corrin, Merrian Lancaster

Ian commented that although the Bank states that two signatures are required on cheques, most payments are now made online and the Bank accepts cheques with only Ian's signature. If Ian needs to reimburse himself for a large sum (eg today's meal subsidy which he will be paying in cash) he asks the other two cheque signatories to sign a cheque made payable to him.

5. Subscriptions for 2015 Ian Sage

Ian had recommended in his Treasurer's report that subscriptions remain at £1 and this was AGREED. Prop: Alan Leadbetter, Sec: Mike Hyland

6. Health and Safety/Insurance Issues: Merrian Lancaster

- No issues to report.
- No response from LDWA to Michael Mooney's Health and Safety document.

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

Donations:

We gave £150 to the RIPPLE group of The Ramblers Association Bedfordshire Area. This was put forward by Merrian. For 2014/2015 if anyone has any ideas about a worthy cause we can give to please feel free to let us know either by emailing Merrian or myself.

Projects:

There have been no major seat or gate installation projects this year. But hopefully without crossing over into Lynn's territory, we have finally got some Tech T-shirts in the group colour burgundy complete with BBN group logo and the option of SSS badge being worn on either breast.

I ordered some long sleeve T-shirts but these are not available in burgundy. So I've ordered a sample of those in red, royal blue and navy. The initial badge was too pink for some (except Andrew Gilbertson) and has now been redesigned to match the group logo on the BBN website. They can be ordered with either the BBN logo only, the SSS badge only or a combination of both. T-Shirts and Long Sleeve Shirts can be ordered individually by members from the company PECO. This company also produces the LDWA merchandise. When I've got the instructions from the company I'll send those to Merrian for her to upload onto the group website.

8. BBN Challenge Events

(a) Steppingley Step: Sunday 3rd November 2013: Merrian Lancaster

As usual we had complaints about the mud, but this time it was because there wasn't enough.

The checkpoint opening times were set to try to spread the number of people at the start (parking, hall, registration, loos and kitchen), at the checkpoints and at the end. We encouraged people to choose a start time to fit in with the checkpoint opening times, but lots of people started at 08.00 and arrived at Harlington before it opened at 09.30. The clever ones aimed for later and didn't have to queue.

The Marshals' Walk took place on a horrible day. Dave F-H & I provided some support, but could do nothing about the weather. 16 people did the marshals' walk, on the day, or thereabouts. The day of the event was, for the third consecutive year, unseasonable warm.

The original Steppingley Step route had to be changed due to the building of Centre Parcs in Millbrook Warren. In order to remove a section of road walking and the dangerous road crossing at Clophill as well as the outdoor checkpoint 2, the long route was substantially changed. DFH took the opportunity to have it visit Coopers Hill nature reserve and Flitwick Moor and use the Steppingley checkpoint twice. The medium route was also changed between Steppingley and Pulloxhill to bring it into line with the long route. The first section of all routes was changed to give better views from the Clappers and provide a drier route to Harlington. Feedback on the new routes was very positive.

For checkpoints we used a marquee in the car park of The Old Sun in Harlington, Steppingley Village Hall (twice) and Pulloxhill Church Hall, plus HQ in the Village Hall, Barton-le-Clay. Many thanks to all those who manned checkpoints & HQ, 24 people at various times. Finishing times, photos and feedback are on the Step Step web page.

	Entries	Starters	Non-starters	Retired	Finished
12 mile	47	42	5	0	42
18 mile	55	45	10	0	45
26 mile	217	183	34	2	183
overall	317	270	49	2	270

INCOME

Entry income	£1706.00
Badge sales	£ 64.00
Donation for teas to	
Air Ambulance	£ 72.89
TOTAL INCOME	£1842.89

EXPENDITURE

Food	£ 468.75
Hall hire	£ 345.00
Other expenses (badges, plastic, tallies etc.)	£ 471.22
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£1285.97

SURPLUS

Income	£1842.89
Expenditure	£1285.97
Donation to Air Ambulance	£72.89
SURPLUS	£484.03

Ninety two people qualified for their S-S-S triple certificate and badge.

Thanks to all on the SS committee, and all the marshals, who helped to make it a jolly good event.

(b) Pick & Mix 2014: Sunday 30th March 2014: Lynn Yorston

The 2014 Pick & Mix was held on a warm and sunny day. In total 163 walkers covered a total of 2,775 miles in 311½ loops. We had 15 under 18yr olds including a little lad of 4½ who completed the 5 mile route, claimed his certificate and badge, then ran straight over to the playground !! I am told he did sleep all way home but was HERO at school the next day. The furthest covered by a runner was 35 miles in 5 loops.

Giggles

- One helper forgot to move their clocks forward by the hour so was late turning up
- One walker put their clocks back the hour so was 2 hours late turning up
- One walker drove off, we were told, with ONE boot balanced on top of the car. It obviously fell off!! The person who saw this, picked it up and brought it in to us to be returned at a later date.
- THE BEST OF ALL – the car parking marshals were visited by 3 police cars. There had been a report of a suspicious man in a HiVis jacket and knitted hat lurking around the Great Missenden Post Office. A worried resident had phoned in and police control sent 6 officers to investigate – blue lights and all. This potential criminal turned out to be our one and only Mike Hyland !!!

(c) Shillington Shuffle: 16th November 2014: Gordon Shaughnessy & Merrian Lancaster

The Marshals' Walk took place on a fine day for a change, which left us worried that the main event may get the grotty weather. Dave F-H & Merrian provided some support. 19 people did the marshals' walk, on the day, or thereabouts.

On the day of the event the weather was not so good, with poor visibility all day (hiding the good views normally seen in this area) and rather muddy underfoot. However, the turnout was good, having reached "Event Full" before the event but with some non-starters (see figures below). Prior to the event repairs had been made to improve the route - i.e. bridge replacements and steps added at a kissing gate – many thanks to Central Beds ROW team.

This year the 26m route was considerably different from that of 2011, but there were 2 people who had printed off the 2011 route description by mistake (they eventually made their way to Shillington via the old route and then safely back to HQ). Apart from this there were no other problems and feedback about the route, checkpoints and catering have been very good.

For checkpoints we used Cassel Memorial Hall in Lilley, Pirton Village Hall, Stondon Village Hall, Shillington Village Hall, plus HQ in the Village Hall, Barton-le-Clay. Many thanks to all those who manned checkpoints & HQ, 31 people at various times. Finishing times, photos and feedback are on the Shuffle web page.

	Entries	Starters	Non-starters	Retired	Finished
12 mile	81	65	16	1	64
18 mile	52	42	10	0	42
26 mile	192	162	30	0	162
overall	325	269	56	1	268

Accounts will be brought to the AGM in 2015.

Twenty eight people qualified for their S-S-S triple certificate and badge.

Thanks to all on the SS committee, and all the marshals, who helped to make it a jolly good event.

Gordon added that the route had been changed to avoid crossing the busy Hitchin road three times as previously. The Council Rights of Way team had done substantial work on several bridges and steps to a kissing gate that needed repair.

Norman thanked all members of the S-S-S team – Dave and Lynn, Dave and Merrian, Mike and Sandra, Gordon and Dave Sedgley

(d) Chiltern Kanter: Sunday 8th March 2015: Norman Corrin

The date of the Chiltern Kanter next year is Sunday 8th March 2015; the marshals' walk being the previous Sunday 1st March.

The event starts from the Pitstone Memorial Hall and parking at the hall will be for the event marshals only. Parking for entrants is 7 minutes away at Safran Power Systems who have very kindly allowed us to use their premises.

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 clues and answers have been changed and, like the Cheshire Cat in Alice in Wonderland, we still have the mystery to solve of the vanishing and reappearing chair outside of Old Park Lodge.....

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.

As per 2013 the routes will enable many of our members to visit the BBN memorial bench in honour of our two founder members Chris Meredith OBE and Chris Goodman. The bench is located outside the Ivinghoe Village Centre

The route will also go past the Bridge 4 on the Wendover Arm where BBN 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's great fun being the other side of the desk. If anyone is interested in marshalling on the day then please contact me.

(e) From Here To There and Back Again: Sunday 5th July 2015: Alan Leadbetter

The First **From Here to There & Back**: Who would have thought 12 months ago when I joined the committee that I would be arranging a challenge event. Well on Sunday July 5th 2015 we shall be holding the very first From Here to There & Back.

I first thought of the ideal in July. Progress has been quite quick, all venues are booked and deposits paid. The routes will be 13, 19 & 27 miles, and all have been walked by me to check them out. The certificates have been printed; the badges have been designed and made, event information is on the website. Now I have to sort out the route descriptions.

I am looking for some help on the catering side of things, so if you think you can help please get in touch, my email is alanleadbetter@sky.com. Also looking for volunteers to help on the checkpoints. We already have some entries.

Alan added that there will be a limit of 150, runners will only be allowed on the long route and there will be two checkpoints. The marshals' walk will be on 21st June 2015.

(f) Sundon Saunter 2016: Dave Sedgley

Dave said that he would be looking at the routes during the winter and hoped to have them ready for checking by February. There will be a few minor changes.

9. LDWA Hundreds: Norman Corrin

The Valleys 100 in 2014 was the 100 that will never be forgotten by anyone who completed it, retired from it or check-pointed on it. Merrian summed it up in one word "Brutal"....and it was.

I don't know what it is about the western part of the United Kingdom but The Cant Canolbarth 100 in 2007, The Housman 100 in 2011 and The Valleys 100 in 2014 have become epics that have entered into the LDWA mythology. It must be something in the water of which there was quite a lot of it on all of these events but none with such intensity and volume as The Valleys.

BBN were an outdoor checkpoint at CP4 at Llanwonno from 530 till just after midnight. The 15 people on the checkpoint coped admirably with the online booking system which worked well, improvised power supplies, random food deliveries, frozen participants and frozen sausage rolls! At one point I do believe that we had gathered more drowned rats than The Pied Paper of Hamelin.

We had 18 retirements one of whom Rob Myers from London Group thought he had dislocated his shoulder. He turned out to have fractured it instead..... With his team Leyton Orient failing in the League 1 play offs he did not have the best of weekends.

The outstanding LDWA achievement of the weekend was the first Double Hundred completion by Rod Holland of South Wales Group. Just think about that for one moment..... 2 x 100 mile walks..... Merrian emailed the videoed moment when he arrived on the Monday morning. They were quite moving and emotional scenes.

I would like to thank all of the BBN members who helped on the Checkpoint. They coped under exceptionally difficult circumstances welcoming people with a smile on their faces some of whom were in great distress. Circumstances like these reveal people's true characters and all of the feedback from entrants has stated what a warm welcome we gave them.

Congratulations to those from BBN who finished and commiserations to those who retired.

Merrian added that 3 completed the marshals' event, 10 completed the main event, 3 first timers (all women), 14 retired on the main event.

(b) 2015 Red Rose 100: Norman Corrin

Like Christmas the LDWA 100 comes around annually and coming up is.....

Next year's 100 is organised by East Lancs Group and BBN is on Checkpoint 2 (indoors!) at Feniscliffe, St Francis Church Hall a distance of 15.9 miles. The checkpoint will be open from 1315 to 1830. Saturday 23rd May. We already have 12 volunteers to staff the checkpoint and the more the merrier.

(c) 2016 Dorset 100: Norman Corrin

We have been allocated Checkpoint 1 at Village Hall in Crossways. Again this is indoors. I have no further information on this.

(d) 2017 North York Moors 100: Norman Corrin

No further information on this yet, but we have asked for an early checkpoint

10. Ideas for Group Activities — Weekends — Social Events

(i) Wendover Gap: BBN Anytime Challenge: Lynn Yorston

Dave has offered, with committee agreement, to re-visit the Wendover Gap and to make it into a BBN 'anytime challenge'. We still have badges and the base design of the certificate. He will offer all 3 routes which will be posted on our website. The routes will need to be checked and questions added to verify that the walker has completed the route. The answers will then be sent to Dave along with a large stamped addressed envelope so that he can return the certificate and badge as required. There would be no further charge for this.

- (ii) Norman said he is planning a weekend at the end of June based on a walking festival in Denmark
- (iii) Steve Smith asked whether there would be a quiz this year; Norman said no.
- (iv) Dee confirmed plans are in hand for a weekend in Dorset in September.

11. A.O.B.

- (i) Dee suggested a "library" of walking books bought by BBN which could be borrowed by members. Various comments were made against this suggestion.
- (ii) BBN are on the front of the LDWA 2015 calendar.
- (iii) Merrian drew attention to the proxy form for the vote for the LDWA Chairman at the 2015 LDWA AGM. The completed form can be posted or handed to Dave F-H (or Merrian/Norman) who will be attending the AGM.
- (iv) Norman congratulated Tony Hill on becoming a Centurion.
- (v) Mike Hyland said when handling entries for BBN events it would be easier for him if he could pay cheques into the BBN account himself, rather than waiting to hand them to Ian. If there is a delay in the cheques reaching Ian and then being paid in, entrants ring Mike to query their cheque not being paid in.
- (vi) One tabard is missing following the Shillington Shuffle.
- (vii) BBN Tablecloth – Lynn needs badges from BBN events or Hundred badges for the tablecloth.

Norman thanked everybody for attending the AGM.

The meeting closed at 3.18 pm

Next committee meeting:

Wednesday 21st January 2015

1 Abbey Way, Bradville, Milton Keynes, MK13 7AN

Provisional dates for future 2015 committee meetings:

Thursday 4th June

Thursday 24th September

Provisional date for 2015 AGM:

Sunday 29th November