**LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION : BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2015**

**BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL, BROUGHTON, NORTHANTS**

The meeting commenced at 2.10pm.

**Present: 24** Dee Brockway (Social Walks), Gill Bunker (Newsletter), Norman Corrin (Chairman), John Davies, Karen Earwicker, David Findel-Hawkins (Membership), Phil Friede, Andrew Gilbertson, Gill Howe, Therese Jamin, Mary Knight, Merrian Lancaster (Secretary), Alan Leadbetter, Adrian Moody, Josephine Pettifer, Jim Robinson, Ian Sage (Treasurer), Nigel Schofield, Dave Sedgley, Gordon Shaughnessy (Thursday Walks), Pearl Smith, Steve Smith, Dave Yorston, Lynn Yorston (Merchandising/Equipment)

Norman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Alan for organising the walk, hall and meal.

1. **Apologies**

Anne Addison, Rachel Armstrong, Sinead Armstrong-Sutherland, Graham Bayes, Mike Bowley, Beryl Bowley, Terry Brown, Eric Cartwright, Steve Clark, Geoff Curnock, Kate Curnock, Sylvie Eames, Carol Entwistle, Mick Entwistle, Brian Graves, Phil Hastings, Dave Humphreys, Mike Hyland, Sandra Hyland, Vicky Kemp, John Ledger, Linda Marsh, Steve McMorrow, Graham Missing, Jim Morrison, Pat Sage, Peter Simon, Roger Skerman, Margaret Skerman, Bob Stafford, Colin Stoneman, Paul Sutherland, Dianne Sutton, Lucy Tink

**2. Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising**

The Minutes were approved as a true record. Prop A. Leadbetter, Sec: M. Knight

There were no matters arising.

**3. Officers’ Reports**

**(a) Chairman: Norman Corrin’s report:**

I stated in my Chairman’s Report for last year that the objective of the LDWA is “to further the interests of those who enjoy long distance walking” but that without the friendships formed in these interests it would be an empty passion. I mentioned Sylvie Eames’s and Dave Norris’s engagement and looked forward to the wedding.

Well, on 27th October at Bletchley Registry Office this took place followed by a blessing in the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Addington. It was a quiet family affair and on behalf of BBN I wish the happy couple much contentment. Now that the Rugby World Cup is over Dave can spend more time with his new bride!

As well as the aforementioned happiness my predecessor Nigel Schofield suffered the loss of his partner Kathy LoRaso in July after a long battle against cancer. Kathy really did rage against the dying of the light and there was a good turnout from London and BBN members at the Memorial Service and the burial. We wish him well in these difficult times and he has our full support.

Changing the tone from Adieu to Au Revoir we are saying farewell to three committee members. These are our outstanding Secretary/Web Mistress Merrian Lancaster, Lynn Yorston who has been our Merchandising & Equipment Officer since 2006 and our Social Walks Secretary Dee Brockway who has also been in that post from 2006. On behalf of the group and the committee I would like to thank them for all of their efforts in enhancing BBN’s reputation.

We’ve said Au Revoir but now it’s on to Bonjour. Alan Leadbetter organised a new addition to the BBN challenge walk calendar with the From Here to There and Back event held on the 5th July with three routes of 27, 19 and 13 miles. The event went well and attracted many favourable comments from the entrants and on the LDWA Facebook site. Alan will supply more details in his report but I would like to thank him and his helpers for all of the effort that went into the event. These overnight successes don’t happen overnight!

The second Bonjour was to Mary Knight who came onto the committee and has provided a refreshing enthusiasm and new ideas for the forthcoming year…..and I hope years to come. She has enjoyed her first year on the committee (well I think she has!) and also completed her second LDWA 100 in a phenomenal time.

The group put on a checkpoint on this year’s Red Rose 100 organised by East Lancs. It was a complete contrast to the Valleys 100 in terms of weather and facilities and I’ll mention this later on in my other report.

Dave Findel-Hawkins continued with his role as LDWA National Events Secretary and this was another excuse for several members to attend the LDWA National AGM. This year it was organised by Wessex Group and held in Sutton Scotney near Winchester. After a contest between Gail Elrick and Tim Glenn we were there to see the election of the first Chairwoman of the LDWA, Gail Elrick.

I have sent Katie Hunt who organises the national AGMs details about several venues in BBN’s area which may be suitable but have not had any confirmation. You will see at next year’s National AGM, though, a quiz organised by Steve Smith and me.

We’ve had a busy calendar of Social Walks both at the weekends and on Thursdays ably organised by Dee Brockway and Gordon Shaughnessy. The Thursday walk attendances at times have exceeded the weekend walks, and why this should be so is puzzling. Whether it is due to Social Media Sites such as MeetUp allowing members greater freedom or older retired members having grand parenting duties to perform remains to be seen.

A highlight of the group’s Social Walks programme was a weekend at Litton Cheney Youth Hostel in Dorset for 22 members (plus 4 nearby) brilliantly organised by our BBN members in exile John Chesher and Jan Williams. With delightful weather, beautiful scenery and walks of varying lengths we were very lucky. To quash any rumours I had only one cream tea and that was on the Friday afternoon at Portland Bill. The White Horse Inn next door to the hostel did a roaring trade from us and the highlight of the weekend was watching the Last Night of the Proms (complete with amusing sub-titles for the classical opera pieces).

As usual Gill Bunker has produced an excellent newsletter with articles from group members covering their trips to places such as Viborg in Denmark and Mount Toukbal in Morocco which Steve Smith and Steve Clark went to at different times of the year. Gill also led a Monopoly walk in London which attracted 28 people. I believe they all passed Go but what happened to the £200 has yet to be established. As I was not there this is one thing you cannot blame on the Scousers!

The group has been busy on the Challenge Walk front with the Chiltern Kanter in March and the recent Sundon Saunter, and there will be further reports on these events from me with my different hat on and from Dave Sedgley.

We have another busy Challenge Walk programme next year with yet more repeats…….namely the Pick and Mix in March and the Steppingley Step in November. Lynn and DFH will have more information on these.

It is a saying repeated many times, but without those people who volunteer these events would never take place. So thank you to all who not only give up their time on the day but also recce routes, organise food, visit school/scout huts to check facilities, process entries, email organisations and do all the work that the participants never see.

I would like to thank all of the committee members for their efforts throughout the year. If you feel you can contribute something then please do not be afraid to volunteer. Your skills will be put to great use………. just sometimes not what you expected! I apologise to anyone who I’ve forgot to thank.

I’m willing to stand for another year as Chairman but I will be standing down at the 2016 AGM.

Norman added his thanks to Ian for his excellent work as Treasurer, managing the BBN accounts and for his input and assistance in the drafting of the new BBN constitution.

There were no questions following Norman’s report.

On behalf of the group, Dee thanked Norman for all his work as Chairman.

**(b) Secretary: Merrian Lancaster’s report:**

Thank you to Alan Leadbetter for organising today’s walk, lunch and AGM.

* Spare Striders. 15 additional copies of each edition which have been taken to libraries in our patch. I’ve been unlucky again 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.
* Regular news updates put onto the website and link emailed to members.
* BBN AGM 2014 minutes sent to LDWA Local Groups Secretary and accounts sent to LDWA Treasurer.
* Attended LDWA AGM 2015 and plan to attend AGM 2016. 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.
* Supported Norman in rewriting the BBN Constitution.
* Provisional date for AGM 2016 – Sunday 27th November 2016.

Finally, a huge thank you to Gill and Norman for doing all the stuff I don’t want to do. They won’t have to put up with my rants any more.

I intend to stand down from the committee at this AGM, but will continue to support the committee, especially the new secretary, and the group.

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**:

TREASURER’S REPORT, 17/09/2015

BBN Accounts total as at 15/09/2015 7198.01

Represented by:

NatWest current account 3193.28

NatWest deposit account 4004.73

Significant activity since last committee meeting:

1. Donation to Bedfordshire Ramblers’ Walking Festival £60
2. Donation to Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of Kathy LoRaso £100
3. Hire of minibus for Norman’s linear walk £160
4. Purchase of gazebo and accessories £132

Expected expenditure:

1 Payment to Gill Bunker for Dorset weekend expenses £110

Ian added:

1. The accounts include some early entry fees for the Sundon Saunter; however the event takes place in the next accounting year, when the final figures will be shown;
2. The accounts have been checked and found to be in order. They will be signed when approved by the AGM.
3. Income from membership is down from £220 last year to £138 this year; this is due to members paying previously for multiple years;
4. Purchases include the original purchase of tech T-shirts, a gazebo and weights, and pans;
5. Ian confirmed the surplus income from BBN challenge events:

Shillington Shuffle: £485.88(this includes entry fees received in the previous financial year)

Chiltern Kanter: £870.68

From Here to There and Back: £12.42;

1. Cost of hiring transport for the Castle to a Park walk £160;

7. If any member has any suggestions of how these funds can be put to good use please let the committee know.

Ian confirmed the accounts show a healthy balance and he would recommend that the administration charge remain at £1.

Ian confirmed he was happy to continue as Treasurer for a further year.

**Proposal to Accept the Accounts**

It was proposed, J Davies and seconded A Gilbertson, that the Accounts should be accepted and this was AGREED. Ian confirmed he would arrange for the Accounts to be signed.

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| **LDWA BEDS/BUCKS/NORTHANTS GROUP** | | | | | | | | |  |
| **STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE** | | | | | | | | |  |
| **1st October 2014 - 30th September 2015** | | | | | | | | |  |
|  | | | | | | **2015** | | **2014** |  |
| **INCOME** | |  |  |  | **£** | |  | **£** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
| MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS | | | |  | **138.00** | |  | **220.00** |  |
| MERCHANDISE | |  |  |  | **211.00** | |  | **23.50** |  |
| INTEREST | |  |  |  | **1.59** | |  | **1.59** |  |
| MISCELLANEOUS | | |  |  | **0.00** | |  | **5.00** |  |
| CAMEL TEIGN 100 CONTRIBUTION | | | |  | **0.00** | |  | **175.00** |  |
| VALLEYS 100 CONTRIBUTION | | | |  | **200.00** | |  | **0.00** |  |
| CHILTERN BREWERY WALK | | | |  | **0.00** | |  | **103.50** |  |
| GREENSAND RIDGE EVENT | | | |  | **0.00** | |  | **700.00** |  |
| STEPPINGLEY STEP 2013 | | | |  | **0.00** | |  | **1507.00** |  |
| PICK N MIX 2014 | | |  |  | **0.00** | |  | **866.00** |  |
| DEEPDALE WEEKEND 2014 | | | |  | **0.00** | |  | **300.00** |  |
| SHILLINGTON SHUFFLE 2014 | | | |  | **1578.00** | |  | **136.00** |  |
| CHILTER KANTER 2015 | | |  |  | **1632.00** | |  | **0.00** |  |
| HERE TO THERE 2015 | | |  |  | **1056.00** | |  | **0.00** |  |
| DORSET WEEKEND 2015 | | |  |  | **650.00** | |  | **0.00** |  |
| SUNDON SAUNTER 2015 | | |  |  | **461.00** | |  | **0.00** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | **5927.59** | |  | **4037.59** |  |
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|  | |  | |  |  |  | **2015** |  | **2014** |  |
| **EXPENDITURE** | | | |  |  |  | **£** |  | **£** |  |
|  | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PRINTING & POSTAGE | | | | |  |  | **348.14** |  | **386.26** |  |
| MERCHANDISE | | | |  |  |  | **223.30** |  | **0.00** |  |
| EQUIPMENT | | | |  |  |  | **202.44** |  | **324.63** |  |
| DONATIONS | | | |  |  |  | **160.00** |  | **150.00** |  |
| QUIZ | |  | |  |  |  | **0.00** |  | **128.81** |  |
| AGM 2014 | | | |  |  |  | **270.00** |  | **0.00** |  |
| CHRISTMAS WALK | | | | |  |  | **20.58** |  | **46.15** |  |
| MISCELLANEOUS | | | | |  |  | **192.80** |  | **66.95** |  |
| CAMEL TEIGN 100 CONTRIBUTIONS | | | | | | | **0.00** |  | **120.00** |  |
| VALLEYS 100 CONTRIBUTIONS | | | | | |  | **195.00** |  | **0.00** |  |
| CHILTERN BREWERY WALK | | | | | |  | **0.00** |  | **115.00** |  |
| GREENSAND RIDGE EVENT | | | | | |  | **0.00** |  | **686.72** |  |
| JOHN BUNYAN TRAIL WALKS | | | | | |  | **0.00** |  | **90.00** |  |
| DEEPDALE WEEKEND 2013 | | | | | |  | **0.00** |  | **15.00** |  |
| STEPPINGLEY STEP 2013 | | | | | |  | **0.00** |  | **1216.97** |  |
| PICK N MIX 2014 | | | | |  |  | **0.00** |  | **543.63** |  |
| DEEPDALE WEEKEND 2014 | | | | | |  | **0.00** |  | **360.00** |  |
| SHILLINGTON SHUFFLE 2014 | | | | | |  | **1228.12** |  | **0.00** |  |
| CHILTERN KANTER 2015 | | | | |  |  | **761.32** |  | **0.00** |  |
| HERE TO THERE 2015 | | | | |  |  | **1043.58** |  | **0.00** |  |
| DORSET WEEKEND 2015 | | | | |  |  | **625.00** |  | **0.00** |  |
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|  | |  | |  |  |  | **5270.28** |  | **4250.12** |  |
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| INCOME |  | |  | | | | | | **5927.59** |  |
| EXPENDITURE | | |  | | | | | | **5270.28** |  |
| SURPLUS(LOSS) | | |  | | | | | | **657.31** |  |
| 01/10/14 (start of year) | | | | | | | | | **6513.90** |  |
| BALANCE 30/09/15 | | | | | | | | | **7171.21** |  |
|  |  | |  | | | | | |  |  |
| **REPRESENTED BY** | | | | | | | | |  |  |
| **NatWest Current Account** | | | | | | | | | **3166.34** |  |
| **NatWest Business Reserve Account** | | | | | | | | | **4004.87** |  |
|  | | | | | | | | | **7171.21** |  |

**(d) Membership: Dave Findel-Hawkins’ report:**

In the last reporting year (1st Oct 2014-30th Sept 2015) we had 10 new members. We have unfortunately lost 20 members. We therefore, at the end of the reporting year, have a membership, down 10 from last year, of 175. Four members have still to pay for 2015, but have indicated they wish to stay as members. 106 members have chosen to pay for more than one year.

I’ve emailed Norman details of all new LDWA members in our catchment area. Norman has contacted them either by telephone calls or emailed/posted information pack.

We have 330 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.

There were no questions following Dave’s report.

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

I trust everyone can at least see of a copy of the Socials Walks Report. Just like for the last 9 years I must begin by thanking all the leaders for willingly (well usually) 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 and fulfilling accomplishment with allows many fellow walkers to enjoy a jolly good day out. We tolerate any mistakes (and we all make them) with support, if also mild amusement at times. We have many regular walk leaders who are the stalwarts of our club and I would like extend my special thanks this year to Sylvie and Dave FH who have led a remarkable 5 walks each. Hot on their heels are Norman and Phil H who each offered 4 walks and Dave Sedgley and Gill with 3. If you have not yet led a walk please give it a thought.

Right, now the formidable statistics! A total of 65 social walks, that is well over an average one a week, 26 midweek and 39 at the weekend. If you had chosen to do all of these you could have covered a total of 993 miles accompanied by an average of 19 friends midweek and 10 at weekends. You would have followed 43 different leaders and gone to all corners of Beds, Bucks and Northants. The most people to attend one walk was 33 and the average length of our walks was 15 miles.

All these are in addition to BBN hosting 3 challenge walks this financial year, namely the Shillington Shuffle last November, the Chiltern Kanter in March and, thanks to Alan Leadbetter, our brand new hugely successful ‘From Here to There and Back’ in July.

Not strictly a social walk, but I could not fail to mention the BBN three day excursion to Litton Cheney, in September. This enabled members to enjoy not only three excellent days walking in the beautiful Dorset countryside but also to socialize together, most staying at the same hostel and enjoy two group evening meals and an unforgettable celebration of ‘Last Night at the Proms. Heartfelt thanks to John Chesher and Jan for organising the whole event.

To the future. The programme for the first four months of 2016 is now finalised and published. Volunteer leaders are welcomed and indeed encouraged for the remainder of the year.

I have decided, after 9 years in post, to step down as Social Walk Secretary. The enthusiasm, good will and dedication to ‘ensuring others enjoy a good walk’ of so many members of our club has made my job much easier and enjoyable. Thank you all. To my successor I offer my help and advice and I extend to him or her my very best wishes for an even better future of social walking with BBN.

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| **The Statistics** | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Date** |  | **Walk** | **Leader** | **Distance** | **Walkers** |
| Sun Oct 5 2014 | w/e | Another Sundon Saunter | David Sedgley | 20 | 12 |
| Thu Oct 9 2014 | m/w | Bugbrooke Spires | Steve McMorrow | 15 | 18 |
| Sun Oct 12 2014 | w/e | Mursley Meander | Sylvie Eames | 15 | 13 |
| Sun Oct 19 2014 | w/e | Trains, Boats and Planes | Michael Trolove | 18 | 11 |
| Thu Oct 23 2014 | m/w | Dukes Delight | Brian Harwood | 15 | 22 |
| Sun Oct 26 2014 | w/e | Shillington Shuffle Marshals' Walk |  |  |  |
| Sun Nov 2 2014 | w/e | Walking the Inclined Plane | Frances & Chris Bent | 16 | 13 |
| Thu Nov 6 2014 | m/w | Down Nene Valley Way | Anne Addison & Peter Bearne | 15 | 16 |
| Sun Nov 9 2014 | w/e | Down Up, Down Up! | Matt Whitmore | 18 | 19 |
| Sun Nov 16 2014 | w/e | Shillington Shuffle |  |  |  |
| Thu Nov 20 2014 | m/w | A Woburn Figure of Eight | DFH & Brian Graves | 15 | 33 |
| Sun Nov 23 2014 | w/e | Litlington Loops | Phil Hastings | 18 | 7 |
| Sun Nov 30 2014 | w/e | Walk + AGM | Dave Yorston | 9 | 24 |
| Thu Dec 4 2014 | m/w | Northampton Round Pt 6 | David Findel-Hawkins | 15 | 26 |
| Sun Dec 7 2014 | w/e | Stroll from Stewkley | Sylvie Eames | 15 | 7 |
| Sun Dec 14 2014 | w/e | Christmas Carolling from Cople | Norman Corrin | 15 | 26 |
| Thu Dec 18 2014 | m/w | Christmas at Wetherspoons | David Findel-Hawkins | 14 | 24 |
| Sun Mar 1 2015 | w/e | Chiltern Kanter Marshals' Walk |  |  |  |
| Sun Jan 4 2015 | w/e | Chairman’s New Year Circular | Norman Corrin | 9 | 12 |
| Thu Jan 8 2015 | m/w | Another Canal Roundabout - the 2015 Version!! | Steve McMorrow | 15 | 28 |
| Sun Jan 11 2015 | w/e | An Extended Baldock Bimble | Phil Hastings | 17 | 12 |
| Thu Jan 22 2015 | m/w | Where’s Bunty Bagshawe ? | Adrian Moody | 15 | 29 |
| Sun Jan 25 2015 | w/e | A Stony Stroll | Bert Jones | 15 | 11 |
| Sun Feb 1 2015 | w/e | The Walk with No Name | Norman Corrin | 16 | 6 |
| Thu Feb 5 2015 | m/w | Northampton Round - The Finale. Blisworth to Stoke Bruerne | David Findel-Hawkins | 15 | 21 |
| Sun Feb 15 2015 | w/e | A Grim’s Ditch and a Rider’s Walk | Therese Jamin | 17 | 16 |
| Thu Feb 19 2015 | m/w | Titchmarsh Nature Reserve and Nene Way | Geoff Curnock | 15 | 26 |
| Sun Feb 22 2015 | w/e | Not a Sundon Saunter | Dave Sedgley | 20 | 15 |
| Sun Mar 1 2015 | w/e | Sharnbrook Shamble | Christine Bramley | 16 | 13 |
| Thu Mar 5 2015 | m/w | Nearly Spring in the Chilterns | John Davies | 15 | 19 |
| Thu Mar 19 2015 | m/w | Two Ways to Emberton | Gill Bunker | 15 | 20 |
| Sun Mar 22 2015 | w/e | Stony Stomp | Sylvie Eames | 15 | 13 |
| Sun Mar 29 2015 | w/e | Tring Roundabout | Peter Hamson | 20 | 12 |
| Thu Apr 2 2015 | m/w | Ashwell Amble | Phil Hastings | 15 | 20 |
| Sun Apr 12 2015 | w/e | Bourne and Beane | Peter Simon | 18 | 9 |
| Thu Apr 16 2015 | m/w | From Coachway to Tramway | Mike Bowley | 15 | 18 |
| Sun Apr 26 2015 | w/e | A Celebration of the Pennine Way | Frances & Chris Bent | 14 | 8 |
| Thu Apr 30 2015 | m/w | Another Marston Meander | Derek Jacob | 15 | 18 |
| Sun May 3 2015 | w/e | Oh No! Not the Brickhills Again! | Peter Engledow | 18 | 10 |
| Sun May 10 2015 | w/e | Steve's Splendidly Silly Stupid Sexy Sandy Stroll | Steve Smith | 18 | 14 |
| Thu May 14 2015 | m/w | Lea'lands | Paul Keech | 16 | 13 |
| Sun May 17 2015 | w/e | Easton Promise | Steve Mossey | 17 | 6 |
| Thu 28 May 2015 | m/w | A North Bucks Round | Gill Bunker | 15 | 22 |
| Sun 31 May 2015 | w/e | Charnwood Charmer Summertime Special | Tim Glenn | 15 | 15 |
| Sun 7 June 2015 | w/e | Wildflower Wander | David Sedgley | 19 | 12 |
| Thu 11 June 2015 | m/w | Over Old Ground | Stephen McMorrow | 16 | 19 |
| Sun 14 June 2015 | w/e | The RSPB Walk | Colin Scargill | 18 | 8 |
| Sun 21 June 2015 | w/e | Canal and Woodlands | Sylvie Eames | 11 | 7 |
| Thu 25 June 2015 | m/w | Pulloxhill Figure of Eight | Linda Marsh | 15 | 15 |
| Sun 28 June 2015 | w/e | A Well, a Witch and Wars by Proxy | Michael Mooney | 18 | 8 |
| Thu 9 July 2015 | m/w | The Albino Walk | Roger & Margaret Skerman | 15 | 23 |
| Sun 12 July 2015 | w/e | On the Edge (of Northamptonshire) Take 2 | Mary Knight | 20 | 15 |
| Sun 19 July 2015 | w/e | Before it Disappears | Peter Simon | 19 | 9 |
| Thu 23 July 2015 | m/w | Axe and the Red Barn | Jim Robinson | 16 |  |
| Sun 2 Aug 2015 | w/e | From a Castle to a Park | Norman Corrin | 18 | 9 |
| Thu 6 Aug 2015 | m/w | To Watford Gap | Peter Bearne & Anne Addison | 15 | 18 |
| Sun 16 Aug 2015 | w/e | A Haddon Hack | Andrew Gilbertson | 19 | 18 |
| Thu 20 Aug 2015 | m/w | From Coachway to Fairway | Mike Bowley | 15 | 25 |
| Thu 27 Aug 2015 | m/w | Summer 'Spoons Walk | David Findel-Hawkins | 15 | 8 |
| Sun 23 Aug 2015 | w/e | Litlington Loops Summer Version | Phil Hastings | 19 | 9 |
| Wed 2 Sept 2015 | m/w | GBG 1 | David Findel-Hawkins | 15 | 15 |
| Sun 6 Sept 2015 | w/e | The Ridgeway Extension | Roy Carter | 16 | 18 |
| Thu 17 Sept 2015 | m/w | SE5A Is that a Postcode? | Adrian Moody | 15 | 16 |
| Sun 20 Sept 2015 | w/e | Ambling The Ouse to Olney | Gill Bunker | 20 | 6 |
| Sun 27 Sept 2015 | w/e | Up and Down the Brickhills | Sylvie Eames | 15 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **THE STAGGERING STATISTICS**  **No. of walks Mid-Week 26 Weekends 39 Total 65**  **No. of different leaders 43**  **Total no. of walkers on all walks Mid-Week 512 Weekend 429 Total 941**  **Average no. of walkers per walk Mid-Week 20 Weekend 11 Average 14**  **Average length of a walk Mid-Week 15 miles Weekend 15 miles Average 15 miles**  **No-one attended every walk? If they had they would have walked 993 miles!  (Anyone up to that challenge next year?)** | | | | | |

There were no questions following Dee’s report.

**(f) Merchandising: Lynn Yorston’s report:**

Sales of garments has been good – once we reduced the cost to half price. We have really reduced the holding stock to about 6 old garments plus 4 baseball caps. We have these all with us today and would love to find them all a good home.

Norman also purchased some ‘wicking T-shirts’ to add to our stock – of which all but 3 have sold at full price. Any further orders of these go direct to the suppliers so we will not hold any more stocks.

Dave and I are willing to continue looking after the merchandise if the committee so wishes. However, it would be good if someone comes forward to take this from us at the 2016 AGM.

There were no questions following Lynn’s report.

**Proposal to purchase BBN badges**

Lynn confirmed there are no BBN badges left in stock; does the group wish to purchase more?

Lynn said it cost almost as much to buy 50 badges as to buy 200, but would we sell 200 badges?

Following discussion, and in view of the substantial balance in group funds, it was agreed to purchase 200 BBN badges and to give the badges to members/new members. Merrian pointed out that the giving of a badge would be an optional service for members.

**Purchase of other group clothing**: It was agreed to wait until next year and review the purchase of further clothing when the new merchandising secretary takes over.

Lynn confirmed that members order the BBN tech t-shirts themselves directly from the manufacturer.

**(g) Equipment: Lynn Yorston’s report:**

The equipment list is fully up to date and can be viewed on our website. I am willing to continue co-ordinating the equipment list if the committee so wishes.

I am not willing to stand for election to the committee for another year but will continue with the above duties until someone else comes forward to do so.

Lynn confirmed that members may borrow group equipment (with adequate notice) but must keep her informed of the whereabouts of the equipment, so that the equipment list is always up to date and correct.

There were no questions following Lynn’s report.

**(h) Webmaster: Merrian Lancaster’s report:**

* No major changes.

There were no questions following Merrian’s report.

1. **Newsletter: Gill Bunker’s report:**:

There are currently three Newsletters each year, now called the Spring, Summer and Autumn issues to give a bit more flexibility if the Newsletter is delayed for any reason.

Thank you to everyone who has sent me items this year.

The Newsletter Editor’s job is now relatively simple and much less time consuming than it used to be. 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. I find producing the Newsletter a very enjoyable and satisfying task, but I am sure there must be someone out there who could bring a new enthusiasm and purpose to the job.

Gordon asked whether the Newsletter was really needed. Some discussion followed, but it was agreed to keep the Newsletter in its present format.

**(j) Local Groups Representative: Alan Leadbetter’s report:**

I attended a group meeting in Hartington on 20th to 22nd November. 38 people attended, with a 17 mile walk in the snow covered Peak District on the Saturday. The meeting on Sunday was attended by 41 representatives. The main topics were Data Protection and the updating and maintaining of the Long Distance Paths handbook. A report of this meeting will be available at a later date.

**4. Election of Officers**

Nominations for officers were confirmed and the following were elected unanimously en bloc:

Prop: D Findel-Hawkins, Sec: A Gilbertson

**(a) Chairman: Norman Corrin**

**(b) Secretary: Peter Simon**

**(c) Treasurer: Ian Sage**

**(d) Social Walks Secretary: Mary Knight**

**(e) Election of Committee Members**The remaining three existing committee members indicated they were willing to stand for re-election. Norman confirmed that Chris Bent had indicated he would like to stand for election.

The following committee members were then elected unanimously en bloc:

Prop: N. Schofield, Sec: J Robinson

**Dave Findel-Hawkins, Gill Bunker, Alan Leadbetter, Chris Bent**

**(f) Appointment of Committee Members to specific roles:**

**(i) Membership Secretary: Dave Findel-Hawkins**

**(ii) Merchandising/Equipment: Lynn Yorston (non-committee position)**

**(iii) Webmaster: Gill Bunker**

**(iv) Newsletter: Gill Bunker**

**(v) Local Groups Representative: Alan Leadbetter**

**(vi) Minute Secretary: Gill Bunker**

**(g) Cheque Signatories:**

The three cheque signatories were confirmed: **Ian Sage, Norman Corrin, Peter Simon**.

**5. Administration Fee for 2016 Ian Sage**

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

**6. Health and Safety/Insurance Issues: Merrian Lancaster**

* No outstanding issues to report.

**7. Donations/Projects:**

It was agreed to give £100 each to BOB (Thames Valley & Chilterns Air Ambulance) and to the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Prop: N Schofield, Sec: L Yorston

**8.** **BBN Challenge Events**

(a) **Shillington Shuffle 2014:** *Gordon Shaughnessy*

(This report was made to the 2014 AGM, but as the event falls within the 2014/2015 reporting year it is repeated here).

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.

(b) **Chiltern Kanter 2015:** *Norman Corrin*

This went well and we had a turnout of 206 in total. All seemed to enjoy it. Analysis of entrants is below.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Route | Pre-entered | Non-Starters | Retirements | Entries on the Day | Total |
|  | Long | 123 | 21 | - | 15 | 117 |
|  | Medium | 64 | 8 | 2 | 11 | 65 |
|  | Short | 13 | 1 | - | 10 | 22 |
|  | Total | 200 | 30 | 2 | 36 | 204 |

We made a very healthy surplus of £870.68! I didn’t believe the figures either but everyone has been paid and this is what we’ve got.

We had a couple of incidents with 1 walker having a stumble and 1 walker on the 13 mile route was bitten by a dog at Cross Keys Farm. I spoke to them both afterwards and they were okay.

I’ve contacted all of the checkpoint caretakers and they were happy with the way we left them and will be okay with them being used again

I will be organising the next Chiltern Kanter for March 2017.

Noman added his thanks for Mike Hyland for processing the entries and for his help and advice with the route.

**(c)** **From Here To There and Back 2015:** *Alan Leadbetter*

Six people walked on the marshals’ walk after which it *was* highlighted that there were three fields that could be a problem on the event as the footpaths were block by crops. This was reported to the Rights of Way people who said that they would have a word with the landowners but they had 14 days in which to clear them. This was 10 days before the event. I went up to see how thing were on the Saturday (4th) and two paths were clear, the third was not so I walked up and down it a few times just to make a visible path through the crops.

The weather was kind to us with only a shower or two near the end. I would like to thank Jane for making the bread pudding and flapjacks. Everyone seems to have enjoyed the bread pudding judging by the comments we have received. Thank you must go to all who helped on the day, with the entries, route checking and sorting out the catering. All the halls were left clean and tidy and the caretakers were very pleased.

Here are a few comments that were posted on the LDWA Facebook page:

*A big thank you to everyone that helped at the first ever "From here to there and back" marathon yesterday. Excellent course and route description, food and friendly people. A must for us again next year. Fairlands Valley Spartans -* ***Barry King, Karen Liddle, Tricia & Chris Hopper.***

*Ran our 27.8 miles 'From Here to There & Back' (Beds, Bucks & Northants LDWA) in 5:25 today - a great outing, great organisation and fabulous checkpoints as always - tinned peaches never tasted so good before.* ***Barbara E Clayton***

*Fantastic walk today mate and fantastic route and description!! Also food at end and checkpoints also fantastic!! Overall oh yeah fantastic day!! You did good and should be proud of a very well organised and great event!! Will come next year and do the long route!!* ***Richard Harris***

*"From Here to There & Back". Had a great day, thanks to the Beds, Bucks & Northants group... The Checkpoints had the Wow-factor, with a whole array of food and drinks on offer!! Spoilt for choice with Swiss roll, flapjack and bread pudding... Amongst a load of other yummy stuff!! The route description was really good, but I still managed to add on a couple of miles, when I was only 1.5 miles away from finishing! Thanks to all involved for a top walk.* ***Sue Fuller***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Entries | 136 |
| Non-starters | 30 |
| Starters | 106 |
| Retired | 1 |
| Finished | 105 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Income | £ | Outgoings | £ |
| Entry Fees | 1056 | Cost of hall hire | 471.50 |
|  |  | Cost of Badges | 213.81 |
|  |  | Cost of Flyers/Certificates | 70.00 |
|  |  | Cost of Food | 288.27 |
| **Surplus of £12.42** | | | |

**(d) Sundon Saunter 2015:** *Dave Sedgley, Merrian Lancaster*

Dave said the event had gone well. There had been a problem in that some of the tape he had used the previous morning to mark the route through the quarry had disappeared by the day of the event. Dave also said that due to transport logistics on the day he had not been able to sweep the last sections of the walk as planned.

Merrian’s report:   
Another successful event, well done team. We had 314 entries, 207 long, 60 medium and 47 short, but had 64 non-starters, matching the 20% average on most events these days. 5 retirements and 32 achieved their SSS triple.

**(e) Pick & Mix 2016:** *Lynn Yorston*

The 2016 Pick & Mix is well in hand. Dave has started checking the routes which will be as the previous event. The cost of hiring the school has increased but they are still happy for us to host the event with them. We do have a clash problem with several localish events but will have to live with that. Shame but it will dilute the entries for us all.

This will be the first BBN event to use SI entries. Ian asked whether postal entries would also be accepted and Lynn confirmed that they would. Dave Yorston said the SI charge £1.12 per entry and the money due to BBN is sent in one lump sum when entries close. To date there had been 16 SI entries and 3 paper entries. Mary said that she had been emailed by SI when entries for the Thames Valley 40 opened and asked whether there is a charge for such an email. Dave Y said he will check this, but he thought once an event opened there was no charge for emails.

Referring to the clash of dates with other events, Dave Sedgley asked whether the organisers checked dates of other events before setting their own date. Lynn and Dave confirmed that their event was the first event scheduled for that date. Dave Findel-Hawkins said the problem of dates clashing was caused by the movement of Easter and that as National Event Secretary he had advised other groups that there would be clash with a BBN event, but the other groups had elected to go with the same date. There are no events the previous weekend as this is the National AGM weekend.

**(f) From Here To There and Back 2016:** *Alan Leadbetter*

The event in 2016 will take place on Sunday 3rd July, with the marshals walk taking place on Sunday 12th June. Entries will be available on **www.sientries.co.uk** as well as by post.

I am upping the numbers to 175 and will allow runners on both the long and middle routes.

Dave Yorston queried why Alan was only increasing the number of entrants by 25, why not increase it to 200? Alan said he would think about this.

**(g) Steppingley Step – 20th November 2016:** *Dave Findel-Hawkins*

Dave F-H confirmed all is in hand. He is looking at the routes which will be much the same as previously but the 12 mile route will be changed. The long route loop will be the other way round.

The first planning meeting has been held. There will be 3 checkpoints instead of 4, at Westoning, Ampthill and Flitton.

**Wendover Gap – BBN Anytime Challenge:** *Lynn and Dave Yorston*

Dave has set up the Wendover Gap and as a BBN ‘anytime challenge’. We have already had about 20 completion. All feedback was good.

**9. LDWA Hundreds** *Norman Corrin*

**(a) East Lancs 2015**

In contrast to 2014 the group had an indoor checkpoint at St Francis Church Hall Feniscliffe at 15.9 miles and also in contrast it was a glorious sunny day.........

In my opinion it was one of the best church halls I’ve seen for a checkpoint with a spacious interior, a sloping theatre stage and ample seating. The caretaker remained on site to assist us with any operational problems.

There were problems behind the scenes with a shortage of food and drink but the walkers were amply fed and watered and the various teams headed by Lynn, Sandra, Dave & Merrian resolved any problems. We had additional assistance from Bobby and Chris and Katie Hunt of Norfolk & Suffolk group.

Congratulations to Mary on a phenomenal time and Alan on completing his first one. Gary Upstone was fourth overall and even though he had a South Wales Tee Shirt on he’s paid his £1 so he’s ours! Commiserations to those who retired and there is next year’s 100 in Dorset to look forward to. Speaking of which..........

**(b) Dorset 2016**

We have been allocated Checkpoint 1 at Village Hall in Crossways. Ten helpers to date.

**(c) North York Moors 2017**

We have a checkpoint at a Bunkhouse in Rosedale at 28 miles.

Lynn and Dave confirmed they are not manning a checkpoint on the marshals’ walk on the 2017 Hundred (this is wrong in the minutes of the last committee meeting).

**(d) Kent 2018**

Checkpoint at Rye, 13 miles (to be confirmed).

Noman confirmed he would organise the 2016 Hundred checkpoint, but that would be his last.

Merrian asked that members think now about whether they could help with the organisation of the BBN 100 checkpoint in 2017.

**10. Constitution**

**To approve revised constitution amended to comply with recent LDWA requirements**

Norman outlined the reason for the new constitution and mentioned the changes that would be introduced. Nigel queried the definition of Primary Members and Associate Members, which Norman and Merrian answered. Adrian queried the legal name of the LDWA; is it “*The* Long Distance Association Limited”? Nigel said the correct spelling of Ltd/Limited must be used. Norman said he would check this with the National Executive, and asked that the meeting accept the new constitution, subject to any change which may need to be made so the correct name of the LDWA is used.

Prop: Dave Sedgley, Sec: Gordon Shaughnessy and passed unanimously on a show of hands.

**11. Group Activities — Weekends — Social Events**

**Greensand Ridge Walk: *Nigel Schofield***

Nigel said he was willing to organise this social walk again in 2016, with the proviso that volunteers come forward to run the breakfast stop at Northill and the lunch stop at Ampthill.

* Dave Yorston said he and Lynn would organise the breakfast stop.
* The date was agreed as Sunday 10th July 2016.
* It will be organised as a social walk with a maximum number of 40 walkers.
* BBN members will be given priority booking.
* Nigel hopes to keep the fee at £25.
* He will check the availability of the halls and whether the car parking in Leighton Buzzard is still free.

**12. A.O.B.**

1. Dee had brought a lot of copies of walking magazines which she encouraged folk to take.
2. Norman/Merrian have new LDWA business cards if anyone wants any to hand out.
3. Norman drew attention to the voting form included with the December issue of Strider, There are 7 people contesting 6 committee positions on the NEC.
4. Andrew Gilbertson said the Heart of England group have a Baked Potato machine which had been used at one of their events and he wondered if BBN could do the same. Lynn said that a machine has been used unsuccessfully on one of the Hundreds. Andrew will see if the Heart of England group would be willing hire out their machine for BBN to try it out.
5. Dave Sedgley said that he hopes there will be an opportunity on his 31st January walk to go up the tower of the old church at Clophill.
6. Dave Sedgley mentioned a new project on the Greensand Ridge starting in 2017, the Secret of the Sands – involving interpretation boards and making the GSR more user friendly. Dave is going to some of the meetings regarding rights of way and circular walks and will provide updates on progress.

Norman thanked everybody for attending the AGM.

The meeting closed at 4.10 pm

**Next committee meeting: Date to be confirmed**