**LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION : BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2016 AT 2 PM
THE ANCHOR INN, GREAT BARFORD, BEDFORDSHIRE MK44 3LF**

The meeting commenced at 2.10pm.

**Present: 27** Dee Brockway, Terry Brown, Chris Burns, Norman Corrin (Chairman), John Davies, Graham Dolby, Karen Earwicker, Peter Engledow, Dave Findel-Hawkins (Membership), Andrew Gilbertson, Gill Howe, Mike Hyland, Sandra Hyland, Therese Jamin, Daniel Jamin, Mary Knight (Walks), Merrian Lancaster, Alan Leadbetter (Committee), Jim Robinson, Ian Sage(Treasurer), Pat  Sage, Dave Sedgley, Peter Simon (Secretary), Steve Smith, Pearl Smith, Dave Yorston, Lynn Yorston (Merchandising/Equipment)

Norman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Steve Smith for organising the walk and Gill Bunker for organising the venue.

1. **Apologies**

Gill Bunker (Newsletter/Webmaster), Roy Carter, Sybil Davies, Sylvie Eames, Phil Friede, Paul Keech, Jim Morrison

**2. Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising**

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

There were no matters arising.

**3. Officers’ Reports**

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

Thanks to Steve Smith for leading today’s walk

In this momentous year in the real world our mutual interest of Long Distance Walking has been an escape from the upheavals both here and on the other side of the pond. With the loss to a supermarket chain in the Euros, the never ending toll of celebrities departing this mortal coil you just want to put your boots on and go for a walk to get away from it all

Although not on the same scale there have been changes on the committee in 2016. Peter took over in absentia at last years AGM from Merrian as Secretary and has continued with the same excellent work that she carried out on our behalf of our group for her 3 year term.

Dee Brockway stepped down from her position as Walks Secretary last year and was replaced by Mary Knight who has enjoyed her 2nd year on the committee and her 1st  as Social Walks Secretary.

She has provided some refreshing ideas about trying to get more members out on the weekend walks which have suffered an alarming decline. It is a puzzling trend but I believe other groups are having the same problems. However at a national level LDWA membership has exceeded 8000 so we must be doing something right.

Ian has continued to manage the group’s finances which have grown but still we cannot spend enough of it! So any ideas of how to do so would be most welcome!

DFH has continued to serve his time on the NEC as Challenge Events Secretary , BBN Membership Secretary, completed his 20th LDWA 100, organised the Steppingley Step …and errr….not a lot else! I’ve not forgotten Alan his bit comes later!

Although there have been changes on the committee there has also been stability with Gill continuing to produce an excellent newsletter and do so much work behind the scenes which a lot of people don’t know about but is essential to the running of the group.

In addition Gill helped me recce the forthcoming Santa walk where if you join us on the 11th December we can tell you why it took us 8 hrs 40 minutes to do something like 13 miles! Sadly she can’t be here today due to family commitments.

Now it’s Alan’s bit. We held the 2nd FHTTAB in July 2 weeks after Brexit and it was a relief to get out in the sunshine and enjoy the pleasures of the Northamptonshire countryside. Despite additional entries on the day his band of helpers (Alan’s Angels?) coped admirably with the extra work required of them. From Steve Smith’s and my position at the rear of the walk all went well!

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. Another overnight success that didn’t happen overnight!

Dave, Lynn, Mike and Sandra organised what might be the last ever Pick & Mix due to the planned HS2 railway and although numbers were down on previous years due to clashing with other events there was still a good turnout. As ever they have played a key part in last year’s Sundon Saunter and they will give details later on in their report

I’ve mentioned mostly committee members and walk organisers but all members of the group who’ve helped on group events, the 100 checkpoints or led social walks have contributed to the smooth running of events and this has been much appreciated by everyone. So thank you.

Speaking of 100s our group was the 1st checkpoint for the entrants on this year’s Dorset 100 and post the event we received a few compliments on the food served and the friendly greeting. The only awry point was the absence of our own Steve Clark at the event as Dorset opted to use there own photographer. The drone was no match for Steve’s dulcet tones and his cheery “Allo dahlin”

A few of us managed to indulge in our favourite hobby overseas, Steve Clark going to Belgium and Austria, Adrian Moody and I having the good fortune to take part in the 100th edition of the Nijmegen Vierdaagse, Clare Francis, Therese Jamin and separately Peter and Mooi walking parts of the Camino del Norte from Irun n the Pyrenees to Santiago and last but not least Jim Robinson doing the GR10 just to prove that BBN are not just Little Englanders….

It goes without saying that for a group to succeed and stay on top of its game fresh faces and fresh ideas are always needed to ensure evolution not revolution. If you feel you can contribute something then please do not be afraid to volunteer. Your skills will be put to great use… just sometime not what you expected!

Things that we have to look forward to in 2017 are the hosting of the National AGM in from Horwood House over the weekend of 10-11 March 2017 of which there is a separate report. This will be preceded by the Chiltern Kanter the previous weekend.

If elected I will stay on for another year as Chairman but I am definitely stepping down at the November 2017 Group AGM.

There were no questions following Norman’s report.

**(b) Secretary: Peter Simon's report:**

12 extra copies of each Strider received from national LDWA. I have distributed them to members who have, in turn, donated them mainly to libraries in our catchment area. Is this a good idea? Are libraries the appropriate places to receive them? Does it make sense at all to distribute extra Striders?

Received and responded to emails.

Few phone enquiries.

Fewer unwanted e-mails than previously - spam filters and unsubscribing seem to be working.

Regular news updates put onto website and link emailed to members.

Keeping e-mail distribution list up to date.

The issue of spare Striders was discussed. It was agreed that the matter be referred to the Committee. There was a general consensus that libraries may not be the most suitable locations for these copies. Alternative suggestions were tourist offices, outdoor shops, leisure centres, RA groups. The initial reaction was that outdoor shops may be most suitable.

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

The Accounts have been prepared for 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016.
Total balance down from £7171.21 to £6836.02, a decrease of £335.19
(This includes Steppingley Step 2016 entries of £454.20 and Chiltern Kanter 2017 entries of £17.40)

1. The accounts have been checked and found to be in order. They will be signed when approved by the AGM.
2. This year we have started using Sientries to accept online entries to our events and this has been very successful. Dave Yorston and Mike Hyland should be congratulated for the work they have put in and for making my job a lot easier
3. Donations of £100 each were made to Thames Valley Air Ambulance and East Anglia Air Ambulance.
4. Membership – income down from £138 to £118. Further members electing to pay for multiple years’ membership.
5. Printing and Postage costs remain fairly high at £337 for the year. This could be reduced if more members elected to receive their newsletters by email rather than hardcopy.
6. Merchandise
New design BBN cloth badges were purchased for £202.74
These are being given to group members and sold to non-members.
7. Equipment Purchases
Road signs were purchased for £69.53. flasks for £20.00 and walkie talkies for £21.84
8. Miscellaneous costs include £98.53 for gifts and cards, £221.94 for Triple Challenge badges, £80 for two Local Groups Weekends and £30 each to 8 committee members to cover general expenses.
9. Sundon Saunter 2015 expenses:
income - £1862.00 (inc FY2015)
expenditure - £1228.12
surplus - £485.88
10. Pick ‘n’ Mix 2016 expenses:
income - £909.08
expenditure - £470.44
surplus - £438.64
11. From Here to There and Back Again 2016 expenses:
income - £1020.64
expenditure - £806.51
surplus - £214.13
12. Greensand Ridge Walk 2016 expenses:
income £755.00
expenditure £874.01
deficit £119.01
13. Given the healthy state of our bank balance, I recommend no change to the annual membership fee.
14. As always, suggestions for how we use our funds are always welcome by the committee.
15. I am happy to remain as treasurer for another year unless anyone else would like to take over. I do intend to step down as Treasurer at the end of this Financial Year and it would be to the group’s benefit to identify a new treasurer before the end of the year so that a smooth transition takes place.

Unless there are any questions, we now need a motion passed to accept the accounts so that they can be signed off.

**Proposal to Accept the Accounts**

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



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

In the last reporting year (1st Oct 2015-30th Sept 2016) we had 11 new members. We have unfortunately lost 14 members. We therefore, at the end of the reporting year, have a membership, down 3 from last year, of 173. Four members have still to pay for 2015, but I have reason to believe they wish to stay as members. As we allow multiyear payments, only 55 still need to pay for 2017.

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.

I have so far distributed 99 BBN badges. These are free to paid up BBN members.

We have 351 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.

Due to data protection issues, BBN will no longer be able to keep its own records of BBN members. This means some BBN members will need to update their entries on the LDWA database in order to continue to receive emails (or not) and have the newsletter posted.

I will be contacting those that need to make changes.

The data protection issues were discussed in more detail. Dave stated that the changes will be made "as soon as possible".

**(e) Social Walks Secretary (including Thursday Walks): Mary Knight's report:**

It was at the AGM last year that Dee stood down as walks secretary. Dee had done a magnificent job for 9 years, This year Gordon who had done a magnificent job of coordinating Thursday walks has also stood down - so sincere thanks to Gordon for the work you have done.

It is only after you try stepping into the shoes of someone else that you realise the challenge.

As soon as one programme is complete I am faced with a list of empty dates – but miraculously (mainly) willing volunteers are found. This year we have had a number of people lead walks for the first time – so a huge thank you to them. But a big thank you goes to all walk leaders, I am sure this is said every year, but we have very little without you.

To be honest and unless any one is prepared to offer suggestions, there is little room for manoeuvre , Thursday walks are well attended and popular. We have just tried to make it a little clearer that ‘weekend walks’ could be a Saturday or a Sunday and this appears to be quite well received.

In the past Thursday walks are on alternate Thursdays – and the walks secretary has identified the dates that need to be filled – we are attempting this with weekend walks too – the opportunity to lead a walk on any other date or day of the week in between is always there, but we will attempt to fill the identified dates first to try and ensure an even spread throughout the year.

At the point at which we have to send the walks programme into strider all we really need is your start point and approximate mileage. In order to make it a little easier for some leaders to take up the challenge of leading a walk we have suggested that the route of a challenge walk could be used. To this end Gordon led ‘A Medium Shuffle’ in May and Dee the ‘Steppingly Pets’ in August. If you have enjoyed a challenge walk perhaps you would consider doing something similar.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** |  | **Walk** | **Leader** | **Distance** | **Walkers** |
| Thu Oct 1 | m/w | Riseley with Stile | Eric Cartwright | 15 | 14 |
| Sun Oct 11 | w/e | Bedford Back Waters | Dee Brockway | 20 | 32 |
| Thu Oct 15 | m/w | Wave to the Prime Minister | Chris Rhead | 15 | 18 |
| Sun Oct 18 | w/e | Beat the Boot to Mayfair (Monopoly Walk) | Gill Bunker | 21 | 29 |
| Sun Oct 25 | w/e | Sundon Saunter (Marshal's) |   | \* | \* |
| Thu Oct 29 | m/w | Brook & River Ramble | Anne Addison | 16.4 | 16 |
| Sun Nov 8 | w/e | Some Chalfonts and a Harefield | John Davies | 18 | 4 |
| Thu Nov 12 | m/w | The Puzzled Monkey Walk | Mike Bowley | 16.6 | 22 |
| Sun Nov 15 | w/e | Sundon Saunter (Challenge) |   | \* | \* |
| Sun Nov 22 | w/e | Royston Panoramas | Phil Hastings | 17 | 15 |
| Thu Nov 26 | m/w | Another Safari Walk | Roger & Margaret Skerman | 16 | 19 |
| Sun Nov 29 | w/e | Walk & AGM | Alan Leadbetter | 7.6 | 19 |
| Thu Dec 10 | m/w | Hanslope Hike | Gill Bunker | 15 | 20 |
| Sun Dec 13 | w/e | Santa's New Suit Stony Stratford Saunter | Norman Corrin | 13.5 | 25 |
| Thu Dec 17 | m/w | Xmas at Wetherspoons | John Davies | 12 | 18 |
| Thu Dec 31 | m/w | End of Year Stroll | Gordon Shaughnessy | 15.1 | 17 |
| Sun Jan 3 | w/e | Winter Wander | Christine Bramley | 15 | 8 |
| Sun Jan 10 | w/e | Anchor Inn the New Year : Walk & Meal | Norman Corrin | 7 | 12 |
| Thu Jan 14 | m/w | Milton Keynes Monopoly | Brian Graves | 14.5 | 24 |
| Sun Jan 24 | w/e | A Wolverton Wander (Linear Walk) | Peter Engledow | 16 | 4 |
| Sun Jan 31 | w/e | Two Moors & More | David Sedgley | 20 | 15 |
| Sun Feb 7 | w/e | Ashridge in Winter | John Davies | 18 | 10 |
| Thu Feb 11 | m/w | Across Bucks to a Bald Buzzard | Mike Bowley | 15 | 19 |
| Sun Feb 14 | w/e | Whittlebury Wanderings | Chris Bent & Frances Craven | 16 | 6 |
| Sun Feb 21 | w/e | From Court to Hollywell | Eric Cartwright | 20 | 10 |
| Thu Feb 25 | m/w | A Wander from Bugbrooke | Dianne Sutton | 15 | 24 |
| Sun Feb 28 | w/e | Walk but No Flight | Ian Sage | 18 | 9 |
| Sun Mar 6 | w/e | Pick & Mix (Marshals’) |   | \* | \* |
| Thu Mar 10 | m/w | Lakes, Towns and Woods | Linda Marsh | 15 | 28 |
| Sun Mar 13 | w/e | Early Christmas Treat | Chris Bent & Frances Craven | 18 | 8 |
| Sun Mar 20 | w/e | Pick & Mix (Challenge) |   | \* | \* |
| Thu Mar 24 | m/w | Let Them Eat Cake | Dave Findel-Hawkins | 15 | 16 |
| Sun Mar 27 | w/e | Easton Promise | Steve Mossey | 20 | 8 |
| Sun Apr 3 | w/e | Lanes & Villages of North Bucks | Terry Penny | 18 | 8 |
| Thur Apr 7 | m/w | A Bit of Cross Bucks | Jim Morrison | 15 | 13 |
| Sun Apr 10 | w/e | Royston Figure-of-Eight | Tim Alcock & Phil Hastings | 19 | 14 |
| Thu Apr 21 | m/w | Gayton Locks | Colin Stoneman | 15 | 22 |
| Sun Apr 24 | w/e | Thornborough & Buckingham | Sylvie Eames | 15 | 12 |
| Thu May 5 | m/w | Northants Icons | Jim Robinson | 16 | 15 |
| Sat May 7 | w/e | A Medium Shuffle | Gordon Shaughnessy | 18 | 13 |
| Thu May 19 | m/w | Sundon Hills & Beyond | Paul Keech | 15 | 18 |
| Sun May 22 | w/e | Offley Again | Peter Simon | 18 | 11 |
| Thu Jun 2 | m/w | Back to Willow Brook | Anne Addison | 16 | 11 |
| Sun Jun 12 | w/e | From Here to There and Back (Marshals’) |   | \* | \* |
| Thu Jun 16 | m/w | Toddington, Tebworth, Tingrith | Peter Simon | 15 | 12 |
| Sun Jun 19 | w/e | Peter, Paul & Lawrence in Herts | Gabriel Newfield | 21 | 15 |
| Sun Jun 26 | w/e | Tripping up in Toddington | Sylvie Eames | 15 | 12 |
| Thu Jun 30 | m/w | Into Ashridge | Gordon Shaughnessy | 15 | 23 |
| Sun Jul 3 | w/e | From Here to There and Back (Challenge) |   | \* | \* |
| Sun Jul 10 | w/e | The Greensand Ridge in a Day |   | 40 | 26 |
| Thu Jul 14 | m/w | The Albino Walk 2 | Roger & Margaret Skerman | 15 | 23 |
| Thu Jul 28 | m/w | Fares Please! | Mike Bowley | 15 | 22 |
| Sat Aug 6 | w/e | The Chairman's Cream Tea Trot | Norman Corrin | 18 | 14 |
| Thu Aug 11 | m/w | Summer at Wetherspoons | Dave Findel-Hawkins | 14.5 | 25 |
| Sun Aug 14 | w/e | Step Backwards... The Steppingley Pets | Dee Brockway | 18 | 14 |
| Thu Aug 25 | m/w | A Shorter Wildflower Wander | David Sedgley | 15 | 18 |
| Sun Aug 28 | w/e | A Wander from Old Warden | Linda Marsh | 15 | 10 |
| Sun Sep 4 | w/e | Queen's Oak and Slithy Tove | Gill Bunker | 18 | 10 |
| Thu Sep 8 | m/w | Chiltern Views and Woods | John Esslemont | 15 | 15 |
| Sun Sep 11 | w/e | Can't See the Wood for Trees | Roy Carter | 17 | 15 |
| Sat Sep 17 | w/e | Blissful Saturday | Roger & Karen Marlow | 20 | 4 |
| Thu Sep 22 | m/w | The Travellers' Graves Walk | Dianne Sutton | 15 | 18 |
| Sun Sep 25 | w/e | Walk from Hellidon | Gill Howe & Andrew Gilbertson | 18 | 4 |

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| **THE STAGGERING STATISTICS** |
| **No. of walks Mid Week 26 Weekends 37 (31 as Social Walks) Total 63** |
| **No. of different leaders 37** |
| **Total no. of walkers on all walks –Mid Week 490 Week End 396 Total 886** |
| **Average no. of walkers per walk Mid Week 19 Week End 13 Average 16** |
| **Average length of a walk Mid Week 15 miles Week End 18 miles Average 16.5 miles** |
| **No-one attended every walk, If they had they would have walked 945 miles!** . |
| **Total People miles..........14,742.....24 more than last year** |

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| --- | --- |
| **Leader** |  |
| Alan Leadbetter | 1 |
| Anne Addison | 2 |
| Bob Safford | 1 |
| Brian Graves | 1 |
| Chris Bent & Frances Craven | 2 |
| Chris Rhead | 1 |
| Christine Bramley | 1 |
| Colin Stoneman | 1 |
| Dave Findel-Hawkins | 2 |
| David Sedgley | 2 |
| Dee Brockway | 2 |
| Dianne Sutton | 2 |
| Eric Cartwright | 2 |
| Gabriel Newfield | 1 |
| Gill Bunker | 3 |
| Gill Howe & Andrew Gilbertson | 1 |
| Gordon Shaughnessy | 3 |
| Jim Morrison | 1 |
| Jim Robinson | 1 |
| John Davies | 3 |
| John Esslemont | 1 |
| Linda Marsh | 2 |
| Mike Bowley | 3 |
| Norman Corrin | 3 |
| Paul Keech | 1 |
| Peter Engledow | 2 |
| Peter Simon | 3 |
| Phil Hastings | 1 |
| Roger & Karen Marlow | 1 |
| Roger & Margaret Skerman | 3 |
| Roy Carter | 2 |
| Steve Mossey | 1 |
| Sylvie Eames | 2 |
| Terry Penny | 1 |
| Therese Jamin | 2 |
| Tim Alcock & Phil Hastings | 1 |
| Wayne Rowlett | 1 |

There were no questions following Mary's report.

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

The sale of garments has come to a resounding halt. At the 2015 AGM we cleared the majority of the stock at half price. There are only a few baseball caps and some plastic mugs or cups left.

The wicking T-shirts are purchased online and do not impact on our stocks.

I feel there is little call now amongst our members for these badged garments.

Maybe we should re-think our approach to group clothing.

With all this in mind, I feel it is time to bring in new enthusiasm. Therefore, we would like some-one to come forward to take this on as soon as possible please. We will stand down at the 2017 AGM in any case.

There were no questions following Lynn’s report.

Norman contributed the following regarding BBN buffs and mugs.

I’ve enquired about a couple of new items which I hope will be of interest to members

**Buffs**

The 1st is the Buff shown below. Having been influenced by David Morgan of South Wales Group and worn one I’m now a convert

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The cost is as below

0-25 - 9.25 each + VAT. 25 including VAT would cost £278

0-50 - 4.99 each + VAT. 50 including VAT would cost £299.50

**BBN Mugs**

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The cost of 100 of these for a 3 colour print is £1.74 each plus VAT

Carriage = £8.50.

So 100 would be £217 in total.

**BBN Personal Information Cards**

We have received 250 of these and they are handy for carrying round any next of kin and medical information.

These items were discussed at length. There was a consensus that we should order 50 buffs because the cost is only slightly higher than for 25. However, it could be hard to sell all 50. Just as Essex & Herts gave away 40th anniversary mugs, perhaps BBN should wait until its 35th anniversary in 2018 before ordering mugs.

There was a clarification concerning personal information cards. Blank cards would be distributed to members free of charge. Members would fill them in and carry them in their rucksacks.

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

The equipment list is fully up to date and can be viewed on our website. I shall send Peter and Gill a new list to put onto the website within the next 2 weeks. This gives time for any updates highlighted at this AGM.

I am willing to continue co-ordinating the equipment list if the committee so wishes.

There were no questions following Lynn’s report.

**(h) Webmaster: Gill Bunker's report:**

* Lots of Flickr links/photos added.
* Challenge walk info and results added.
* New *Events Archive* page set up– so the *Challenge Events* page only shows the current event (or the most recent event).
* *Latest News* (hopefully) kept up to date.
* Instructions on how to order a BBN Tech T-shirt now included on the *Merchandise* page.
* I have been looking after the website for a year – and I must admit I have enjoyed doing it – Merrian did a great job setting it up and it has been very easy to follow in her footsteps.
* But if there is anyone out there who would be interested in taking it on, please do say. I have found it a very satisfying job.
* The BBN website is linked to the main LDWA website, is extremely user-friendly and the LDWA Internet Officer is always available to help.

There were no questions following Gill's report.

1. **Newsletter: Gill Bunker’s report:**:
* Three newsletters this year.
* Good supply of articles from members – thank you to all contributors.
* Over 80 members prefer a hard copy version of the newsletter.
* The format of the newsletter is restricted by the need to have the hard copy version in a multiple of four A5 pages printed in black and white.
* This means that photographs are printed in black and white, are reduced in size, and never come out as well as in the online version.
* If I am still editing the newsletter next year I plan to produce a different A4 online version. The text would be identical in both, but because of the lack of restrictions imposed by the A5 hard copy version extra photos could be included. At the moment the newsletter often refers to “more photographs on the BBN website”, but I think it would be good to actually include more photos in the online version.
* Anyone who gets a hard copy of the newsletter can of course also look at the online version.
* I do refer to me carrying on editing the newsletter but of course I have been doing this for some time and it would be beneficial if someone else took over. A fresh approach has got to be good for the group.

There were no questions following Gill's report.

**(j) Local Groups Representative: Peter Simon's report:**

The 2016 local group representatives meeting was held November 18-20 at the Stratford-upon-Avon youth hostel. Here are my subjective takeaways from the sessions.

* **First aid training for events** - What is the current situation on a group-by-group basis? What is the position with respect to insurance? Do we have sufficient trained marshals? If not, who would be able to provide the training? If someone has an accident and no first aid trained marshals are available, do we expose ourselves to liability if an untrained person attempts to help? The Essex and Herts group has received training and could recommend someone.
* **Data protection** **(1)** - The national LDWA has issued a policy on data protection that states that local groups should use the LDWA National Database "wherever possible" for bulk mailings to members. At present, we are not doing this. One of the issues that has delayed us in doing so is our wish to restrict bulk mailings to members who have paid the £1 administration fee. Other groups seem to have figured a way around this. It was recommended that we contact either Dennis Jacobs of Essex and Herts Group or Adam Dawson of London Group (neither of whom attended the meeting) in order better to understand how this may best be done. It sounds interesting to me. Might it be worth exploring?
* **Data protection (2)** - More generally, the NEC has published a briefing note on data protection and policy that is available to anyone that is interested, in particular, challenge event organisers, group secretaries and other group level officials. I have a copy. Of particular interest is the following: "All LDWA Groups should identify a member of their committee to be the person responsible for ensuring compliance with the Association's Data Protection and Privacy Policy".
* **Insurance of group assets** - The issue here is the sort of insurance cover that groups may have to cover property that is stored when not needed for events. Do we have cover? Do we need cover?
* **Charges to use national parks, National Trust land etc. on events -** Although individual ramblers are free to use public rights of way or to cross access land on their own, the same does not necessarily apply to participants in organised events. The national parks and the National Trust have contacted event organisers with demands that they pay a fee for permission to cross their properties, sometimes a fixed fee and sometimes a charge per entrant. Gail Elrick, the NEC chairman, looking further into this. Has BBN encountered any problems in this regard?
* **PACER** - The PACER system for managing events was demonstrated. It was first used live at this year's Founders' Challenge. Some bugs were encountered, with the result that a version 2 is in preparation and due for completion next month. The response to the system has been favourable. Challenge event organisers are under no obligation to use PACER.
* **Business Plan 2017-19 -** The NEC is discussing putting out a Business Plan for 2017-2019. There are no firm action points at this time.
* **LDWA LDP Survey -** Neil Rawlins, the LDP coordinator at national level, is preparing a questionnaire that would go out to members, surveying their views on the long distance paths pages on the LDWA Website. There was discussion on what the questionnaire should contain.
* **Social media for local groups** - The NEC is interested in feedback on how local groups use, or could use, social media such as Facebook, Twitter etc. to promote their activities.
* **Rules for 100s** - Formal rules for the organisation of Hundreds are in preparation. This is a 6-page document. Since BBN is not planning to organise another Hundred in the immediate future, this is not relevant to us. By the time that we do get around to organising another Hundred, the rules most likely will have been altered.
* **LDWA and the definitive map of rights of way in England** - Dorset LDWA prepared a briefing on a project that is being undertaken to identify and reclaim lost footpaths that do not appear on current definitive maps. This must be done by January 1, 2026. There seemed to be a general consensus that this is not something for the LDWA to get into. Although it is an admirable project, the Ramblers are the more appropriate group to get involved.

There was discussion on some of the above issues.

* **First aid training** - We don't have systematic training. Some members present (M. Lancaster, Ian Sage, Norman Corrin, Dave Findel-Hawkins, Andrew Gilbertson, Lynn Yorston) have received some training although in some cases the training is out of date. There is a general consensus that we don't want to go down this route as it could double the cost of running an event.
* **Data protection (1)** - See Membership Secretary's report above.
* **Insurance of group assets** - The equipment that we have is of little value, and therefore not worth insuring.
* **Charges to use national parks, National Trust land etc. on events** - There have been problems with checkpointing on National Trust land, though not on the issue of walking on paths. Norman Corrin has been in touch with NEC chairman Gail Elrick on this matter.
* **LDWA LDP Survey** - Most attendees have never used this. Dave Findel-Hawkins and Dee Brockway have. Dave finds the gpx files useful. Dee finds it useful for planning social walks.
* **Social media for local groups** - Daniel Jamin to look into this.

**Election of Officers**

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

Prop: A Gilbertson; Sec: J Robinson

**(a) Chairman: Norman Corrin**

**(b) Secretary: Peter Simon**

**(c) Treasurer: Ian Sage**

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

**(e) Election of Committee Members**Three of the existing Committee members indicated they were willing to stand for re-election. Chris Bent has stood down and Roy Carter has agreed to take his place. Two vacancies on the Committee remain unfilled. The following Committee members were then elected unanimously en bloc:

Prop: N. Corrin, Sec: A Gilbertson

**Dave Findel-Hawkins, Gill Bunker, Alan Leadbetter, Roy Carter**

**(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: Peter Simon**

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

**(g) Cheque Signatories:**

The three cheque signatories were confirmed: **Ian Sage, Norman Corrin, Gill Bunker**

**5. Administration Charge for 2017 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: Norman Corrin**

* No outstanding issues to report.

**7. Donations/Projects:**

It was agreed to give £100 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Prop: M Knight, Sec: M Lancaster

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

**(a) Wendover Gap - BBN Anytime Challenge** *Lynn & Dave Yorston, Mike & Sandra Hyland*

We initially had several people completing this challenge and claiming their certificates. However, over the past 6 months this has dwindled to a halt. Maybe we should advertise it in the spring newsletter.

Lynn will prepare a flyer to be distributed at the 2017 Chiltern Kanter in an attempt to resuscitate this event.

**(b) Pick & Mix – Sunday 20th March 2016** *Lynn & Dave Yorston, Mike & Sandra Hyland*

The weather was cool and dull but by having had a dry week on the run up to the event, the going was good to soft. We again used all the previous routes and only had to make a couple of minor changes like stiles to kissing gates as usual. The biggest route amendment was to the red route as it crossed a set of paddocks on an enclosed footpath. That is – it was enclosed through the paddocks until AFTER we printed this route description. The land owner decided to remove all his paddock fencing which had stood for a good 10-15 years leaving us with a big hole in the paragraph.

We had a few under 18s on the event. All credit to them for walking their chosen routes. The youngest was just over 6 who happily completed the 5 mile route with his parents in tow. The oldest walker was reported to be in his 80s. Big congratulations to them all.

Well done to Jonathan Hall who covered the furthest distance by completing the 6 mile route 8 times, making 48 miles in total.

Many thanks to all who helped us in advance and on the day.

Merrian Lancaster, Dave Findel-Hawkins, Nigel Schofield, Norman Corrin, Gordon Shaughnessy, Gill Bunker, Martin Lawson, Pat Sage and last but not least our daughter Coral.

Further thanks to Malt the Brewery for the van and to the Missenden CofE School and Robin their caretaker for allowing us to visit them again this year.

In total 138 walkers covered a total of 2,581 miles in 300 loops

WELL DONE

The construction of the HS2 railway threatens the planned 2018 event.

**(c) Chiltern Kanter 2017 -** *Norman Corrin*

This is the 19th Chiltern Kanter and as since 2013 is starting from Pitstone Memorial Hall with car parking at Safran Power Systems. At this time we have 25 entries.

There are 3 distances of 26, 18 and 13 miles and the routes are all different from the previous event in 2015. The Marshals Kanter is on Sunday 13th February.

As with all events these do not happen by themselves and if anyone would like to help then please contact me.

**(d) From Here To There & Back 2016 Report** - *Alan Leadbetter*

After the worry of the proposed road closure that did not happen, I changed the start of the routes which worked ok. Everything went well, even with the overgrown and uneven paths. Numbers up from last year. Made a Surplus of £214.13.

Relocated two signs I misplaced last year

Entries 138 Non-Starters 30 Finished 108

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 13 mile entries | 21 | 19 mile entries | 23 | 27 mile entries | 94 |
| 13 mile non-starters | 2 | 19 mile non-starters | 4 | 27 mile non-starters | 24 |
| 13 mile finished | 19 | 19 mile finished | 19 | 27 mile finished | 70 |

Next year’s event will be a week later as Broughton Village Hall has a craft fair on the first Sunday of every month. The main event will be on Sunday 9th July 2017 with the marshals’ walk on Sunday 11th June (might see about doing it on Thursday 15th June also).

I am going to change the middle route to take out the loop around Pitsford Water and take it up to Broughton.

Halls are all booked.

**LDWA: £8.00 NON LDWA: £12.00 UNDER 18s Free.**  There will be a limit of **200**

**NO ENTRIES ON THE DAY.** Entries will be acknowledged by Email.

**On line entries go to www.sientries.co.uk**

**(e) Greensand Ridge In A Day: July 2016** - *Gill Bunker*

* 26 walkers
* Great feedback after the event
* £605 taken in entries, costs £680.01. Two x £22 entry fees were returned meaning a BBN subsidy of £119.01.
* A massive thank you to all who helped
* There has been talk of doing it again
* Suggestions include walking on a Saturday, walking in the opposite direction, being met by the coach at the end to get another hour of daylight for walking.

**(f) LDWA National AGM 2017 10th-12th March 2017 -** *Norman Corrin*

Beds, Bucks and Northants have the honour to host the 2017 National AGM at Horwood House just outside Milton Keynes over the weekend of 10th to 12th March 2017. This will enable LDWA members to visit the northern end of the Chilterns with their quintessential English Villages and experience some BBN hospitality.

Steve. Pearl and I will be hosting a quiz on Friday night and will be hoping Steve keeps more of his clothes on this year!

The Walk Details are as below.

A route 23 miles Walk Leader DFH & M

* Leave Horwood House by coach and over to Little Gaddesden where the A route walkers are dropped off
* They will return via Ivinghoe Beacon to Ivinghoe where they will visit the BBN Founders Memorial bench.
* From there return via Horton Wharf and then towards Mentmore Towers (home of the famous Yogic Flyers)
* From Mentmore to Wing Village Hall where BBN will provide lunch
* From there to Cublington and onto Dunton.
* From Dunton to Mursley and return to Horwood House

B route 18.20 miles – Leader Teresa Brown

* Leave Horwood House on foot and through Mursley to Dunton
* From Dunton to Cublington and then to Wing Village Hall where BBN will provide lunch.
* From Mentmore to Wing Village Hall where BBN will provide lunch
* From Wing Village Hall to Mentmore Towers and then onto Horton Wharf
* From Horton Wharf onto Ivinghoe and to visit BBN Founders Memorial Bench.
* From Ivinghoe down the road to Pitstone Memorial Hall where collection by coach.

Hopefully A and B routes will meet somewhere in the middle.

BBN will be providing a lunch for the A and B routes at Wing Village Hall

 C Route 15 miles Walk Leader Sylvie Eames

* Horwood House to Winslow
* Winslow to Addington
* Addington to Verney Junction
* Verney Junction to Horwood House

Norman Smith from BBN has been helping Sylvie recce the walk. He is a pilot with a keen aviation background (including by his own admission an obsession with gliding) which is why there are a lot of Wellington crashes en route!

D route 10 miles Walk Leader Frances Craven.

* Horwood House to Mursley
* Mursley to Swanbourne (Lunch at Betsey Wynne)
* Swanbourne to Winslow
* Winslow to Horwood Houses

Coach Trip – Provisional

* Horwood House –Snelshall Priory – Prince George Pub
* Howe Park Wood – Woodhill Prison
* Stony Stratford High Street – Wolverton
* MK Museum Car Park to see Cows – Midsummer Bvd Library
* Campbell Park –Willen Lake – Peace Pagoda
* Stadium MK – IKEA and Bletchley Park

The Guest Speaker is Richard Bradbury, Editor of Chiltern Magazine and Ex Strider Editor

If you’ve never been to a national AGM before then this is your ideal opportunity.

We will need helpers on the Friday to welcome fellow guests to the hotel and where possible walk leaders to explain about the routes. However for those of us who are working I understand that may not be possible.

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

**(a) 2016 Dorset 100**

We were Checkpoint 1 at Crossways Village Hall on this. All went well with Dave and Merrian organising the Checking in Teams, Mary and Mr Mary (Dennis) organising the food, Sandra organising the drinks and me with my Big Boss sign on sitting at a desk looking important! Entrants arrived early and we were able to hold these back until the checkpoint opened officially.

We had a lot of compliments about the checkpoint and all seemed to go well. So thank you to all of those who turned up to help and got stuck in.

**(b) 2017 North York Moors 100**

We have a checkpoint at a Bunkhouse in Rosedale at 28 miles. Merrian is organising this and managed to get all of the helpers for this checkpoint as soon as the Dorset 100 checkpoint had closed. More details to follow.

**(c) 2018 Cinque Ports 100 (Kent Group)**

We’ve been offered a checkpoint at Rye at 13 miles. We will need a checkpoint co-ordinator for this as Merrian is happy to help on the day but does not wish to organise the group checkpoint. If anyone is interested then please contact Peter who will forward your details onto the Kent Group 100 organising committee.

**10. Constitution**

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

The latest version of the Group constitution was submitted to the membership and approved unanimously by a show of hands. It will be passed on to the national LDWA.

Prop: Terry Brown, Sec: Andrew Gilbertson and passed unanimously on a show of hands.

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

**Greensand Ridge Walk**

* Steve Smith commented that the walk conflicts with major football tournaments in even-numbered years.

**Round Corby Walk**

* Wayne Rowlett has proposed to do a longer-than-usual walk around Corby in June 2017.

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

1. Merrian has urged members to renew their LDWA membership by direct debit rather than by cheque.

2. Julie Cribb of the National Executive Committee has commended Gill Bunker for the way BBN events are organised.

Norman thanked everybody for attending the AGM.

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm

**Next committee meeting: 19th January 2017**