**Chairman’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 Steppingly 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.

**Norman Corrin**

**Donations/Projects**

**Donations**

TBA

**Projects**

TBA

**Chiltern Kanter 2017**

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 ?? 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.

**LDWA Hundreds**

**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.

**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.

**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.

**LDWA National AGM 2017 Friday 10th-12th March 2017**

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 20-17. 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 Whart 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 Adddington
* 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.

**Norman Corrin**

**BBN Merchandise**

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



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.

**Norman Corrin**