**LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - BEDS BUCKS & NORTHANTS GROUP
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2016
AT 96 WARDOWN CRESCENT, LUTON**

The meeting commenced at 7.45.

**Present:** Gill Bunker (Newsletter/Website), Norman Corrin (Chairman), Dave Findel-Hawkins (Membership), Peter Simon (Secretary), Alan Leadbetter (Local Groups Rep), Ian Sage (Treasurer)

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| **1.** | **Apologies:** Mary Knight (Social Walks) | **ACTION** |
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| **2.** | **Minutes of Previous Meeting (2nd June 2016) and Matters Arising:** |  |
|  | The Minutes were approved. Prop: Ian, Sec: Norman |  |
|  | Matters Arising: |  |
|  | * Gill still to look into purchase of banners
 | ***Gill*** |
|  | * Noman still to check with Lynn re remaining merchandise
 | ***Norman*** |
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| **3.** | **Reports:** |  |
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| **(a)** | **Chairman**: **Norman Corrin** |  |
|  | Norman’s report had been circulated before the meeting: |  |
|  | Thanks to Peter for hosting the meeting.I’ve done the following:New Members/ Enquiries from PublicDave has notified me of 15 new LDWA members who live within our group’s catchment area.The last list Dave sent me there were 4 members. I received the email at 1431 on the middle weekend of the Olympics and they were all contacted by 1455. Super Sunday or what? |  |
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| **(b)** | **Secretary: Peter Simon** |  |
|  | Peter’s report had been circulated before the meeting: |  |
|  | 12 copies of August 2016 Strider received from national LDWA - All distributed. Nigel's 3 copies - can we find alternative libraries? Currently the following libraries are getting copies: Hitchin, Letchworth and Baldock (Nigel's 3), Dunstable (Ian), Bedford and Central MK (Gill), Northampton (Steve C), Luton (myself), Newport Pagnell (Mike B), Chesham (Mike H via Merrian), High Wycombe (Dave Y via Merrian). Not clear where the 12th is going but seems to be going to either Gill or Dave Y. Received 2 copies of the Dorset 100 memorial. Does anyone want them or should we bin them?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. |  |
|  | **Arising from Peter’s report:** |  |
|  | Gill said two/three copies of August Strider had been passed to Roy Carter to hand out to any non-LDWA walkers on his Beds Walking Festival walk (instead of taking to libraries). |  |
|  | What to do with Nigel’s copies? Northants members to be asked to put a copy in their library, although we are not sure how useful it is to put copies in local libraries. Might it be better to put copies in the local tourist board offices?All to come up with ideas for best use of the spare Striders. | ***Peter/All*** |
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| **(c)** | **Treasurer: Ian Sage** |  |
|  | Ian’s report had been circulated before the meeting: |  |
|  | Significant activity since last committee meeting: 1. FHTAB surplus £214
2. Greensand Ridge shortfall (includes 2 entry refunds) £119
3. Contribution from Dorset 100 to be shared amongst helpers £300

Monthly payments being received from Sportident with event breakdown details.Gill Bunker is now a cheque signatory.**Please inform me of any payments required or income expected before 16th September so that I can finalise this year’s accounts.** |  |
|  | **Arising from Ian’s report:** |  |
|  | * The £300 from the Dorset Hundred is to be divided between 17 helpers. It was agreed to round this up to £18 each.
 | ***Ian*** |
|  | * No Sportident payment for August received yet. Ian will check with Dave Y/Mike.
 | ***Ian*** |
|  | * The appointment of a person to independently check the accounts before the AGM – this has been done.
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| **(d)** | **Membership Secretary: Dave Findel-Hawkins** |  |
|  | Dave’s report had been circulated before the meeting: |  |
|  | We currently have 170 members including our five free members.We have one new members since the last meeting, but we have lost one recently deceased.I have removed 10 previous members who have either not paid for 2016 or are no longer LDWA members.I have distributed 95 BBN badges in total. Recently sold three badges. |  |
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| **(e)** | **Social Walks: Mary Knight** |  |
|  | Mary’s report had been circulated before the meeting: |  |
|  | January to April 2017 programme almost complete.* Walk leaders identified for all available dates, just waiting for a few walk details.
* There are 2 Thursday walks and 2 weekend walks each month from January to April.
* Dates went out in newsletter and I received a good response for weekend walks
* After Gordon stepped down from organising the Thursday walks programme Merrian identified ‘volunteers’ for Thursday walks and I followed them all up with an e-mail which seemed to work quite well

Can the National AGM walks go in the walks programme? If so I assume we will need numbers beforehand for lunches.I am still finding it difficult to get numbers of walkers on walks – not sure what the answer is but will continue chasing with e-mails.I will continue to put available dates for walk programme in newsletter. |  |
|  | **Arising from Mary’s report:** |  |
|  | * National AGM walks to be included in Strider – full details will be in the AGM booklet distributed to all with Strider.
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| **(f)** | **Merchandising/Equipment: Lynn Yorston (Non-Committee)** |  |
|  | Lynn’s report had been circulated before the meeting: |  |
|  | MerchandiseWe have not sold or added any merchandise since the last report.**Equipment**I shall have to publish a new equipment list as Gordon now holds the 2 big saucepans and ladles.Please take notice that I have added the following note -‘*It is the walk organiser’s responsibility to ensure all equipment is returned, clean and dry, to the correct person for storage as soon after the event as possible. Please let us know if anything is damaged or lost.’*Everything has been returned from the Greensand Ridge Walk – thank you.Following the FTAB, we have 1 large HiVis vest missing. Please could everyone have a look to see if it is hiding in their car or rucksack. It would be good to have him home.We have also gained, from the same event, an extra squat plastic jug. He really should be returned to his home. If I am given the address, I can ensure his safe delivery. Thirdly, we managed to recover the two ‘Beware walker’ signs that were mislaid on the FTAB last year. Congratulations – good to have them back.  |  |
|  | **Arising from Lynn’s report:** |  |
|  | The Hi-Vis jacket has not been found yet. |  |
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|  | **Proposed New BBN Merchandise**  |  |
|  | **Buffs – Norman Corrin** |  |
|  | I’ve received an image of what the finished article will look like. I’ve attached it with my report. |  |
|  | Norman said the buffs would cost:  |  |
|  | 0-24 - £9.25 each + VAT25 or 50 - 4.99 each + VAT |  |
|  | Norman will check with the manufacturer whether the BBN name/logo can be printed on the burgundy background instead of the current badge format. Then to be referred to AGM to gauge interest.  | ***Norman/AGM*** |
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|  | **BBN mugs – Norman Corrin** |  |
|  | Do we want to get plastic BBN mugs similar to the green E&H ones? I’ve got the contact details for the company Dave Wingrove used for theirs. |  |
|  | For 100 with a 1 colour print: £1.11 each plus £7.50 carriage, plus VAT |  |
|  | For 250 with a 1 colour print: £1.08 each plus £8.50 carriage, plus VAT |  |
|  | The purchase of mugs was agreed in principle, but we would like to see artwork first. | ***Norman*** |
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|  | **Personal Information Cards.- Norman Corrin** |  |
|  | Essex & Herts have these and I’ve asked Peter Hogg for a quote. Minimum amount is 250. Do we want to get any? |  |
|  | Norman said the cost for 250 cards would be £25. |  |
|  | It was agreed that Norman would order 250 cards. | ***Norman*** |
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| **(g)** | **Website: Gill Bunker** |  |
|  | Gill’s report had been circulated before the meeting: |  |
|  | 1. Lots of photos added – mainly Merrian’s, some of mine, generally of Thursday walks. Added challenge walk info and results.
2. I’ve set up a new *Events Archive* menu– so the *Challenge Events* menu only includes the current event (or the most recent event).
3. Have added some *Latest News* items.
4. Not sure how up-to-date-the *Merchandise* page is – need to check with Lynn. Instructions on how to order BBN tech tops are not on the website – is the info as set out in a previous Newsletter still correct?
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| **(h)** | **Newsletter: Gill Bunker** |  |
|  | Gill’s report had been circulated before the meeting: |  |
|  | 1. Next Newsletter is the Autumn issue (October). Deadline: end of September.
2. Three articles so far, and will include January to April 2017 walks programme.
3. Anything need to be included re BBN AGM?
4. Anything to come from committee members?
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| **(i)** | **Local Group Rep: Alan Leadbetter** |  |
|  | Peter will be attending the next meeting. | ***Peter/*** |
|  | Peter will liaise with Ian to sort payment for weekend. (This was done the day following the meeting). | ***Ian*** |
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| **(h)** | **Other committee members**  Nothing |  |
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| **4.** | **Insurance Issues – Incident Reports** |  |
|  | No incidents to report. |  |
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| **5.** | **LDWA** |  |
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| **(a)** | **National AGM 2017 - Norman Corrin****10th/12th March, Horwood House** |  |
|  | Norman’s update had been circulated before the meeting (see pp 9/11). |  |
|  | Norman went through the itinerary as currently planned. |  |
|  | He will check with the coach company to get more precise time estimates for the various coach journeys. | ***Norman*** |
|  | A route: May need to leave earlier, breakfast time to be checked. | ***Norman*** |
|  | B route: Leader needed. | ***Norman*** |
|  | D route: Still to be sorted. | ***Norman*** |
|  | BBN members needed to “meet and greet” on the Friday. | ***Norman*** |
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| **(b)** | **Group Constitution**  |  |
|  | Merrian is checking the questions raised at the BBN AGM regarding the correct name of the LDWA (Constitution para 1): is it “*The”* Long Distance Association Ltd; is it Ltd/Limited? Will be answered before BBN AGM. | ***Merrian******/Norman*** |
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| **(c)** | **Data Protection Issues – guidance from NEC** |  |
|  | Further guidance awaited. |  |
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| **(d)** | **Bulk Emails – guidance from NEC** |  |
|  | Further guidance awaited. |  |
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| **(e)** | **PACER** |  |
|  | Peter explained this was a new electronic system for managing LDWA Challenge Events via bar coded/plastic coated card readers. Check in at start, checkpoints and finish would all be done electronically.  |  |
|  | Ian queried whether there would be any costs involved and Dave said that it would be necessary to purchase a barcode reader, but he did not think this would be too expensive. |  |
|  | Dave said the “Founders Challenge” would be using PACER, |  |
|  | It was agreed that it would be up to individual BBN event organisers to decide whether to use PACER, but in the meantime we would see how it has trialled at other events. | ***All*** |
|  | Peter will forward the relevant information to all BBN challenge event organisers. (Done) | ***Peter*** |
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| **(f)** | **Local Groups Weekend 18-20 November 2016** |  |
|  | Already discussed. |  |
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| **6.** | **LDWA 100** |  |
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| **(a)** | **2016 100 – Dorset** |  |
|  | Reported at June committee meeting. |  |
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| **(b)** | **2017 100 – North York Moors** |  |
|  | The BBN checkpoint is at 28 miles which is a Bunkhouse in Rosedale. Merrian will be organising the group checkpoint.  |  |
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| **(c)** | **2018 100 – Kent** |  |
|  | We’ve been offered a checkpoint at Rye at 13 miles.No-one has offered to be lead co-ordinator yet. |  |
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| **(d)** | **2019 100 - Northumbria** |  |
|  | The Hadrian Hundred. No-one has offered to be lead co-ordinator yet. |  |
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| **7.** | **BBN Challenge Events** |  |
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| **(a)** | **From Here to There & Back 2016 – Alan Leadbetter** |  |
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|  | 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. |  |
|  | 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 |  |
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|  | Made a Surplus of £214.13.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.We’ll change the middle route and take out the loop around Pitsford Water and take it up to Broughton.  |  |
|  | Alan confirmed: |  |
|  | He will keep the same route start next year. Halls are all booked. |  |
|  | No entries on day. |  |
|  | Entry form passed to Dave for December Strider. Alan will also email a copy. | ***Alan*** |
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| **(b)** | **Steppingley Step 2016 – Dave Findel-Hawkins** |  |
|  | Dave reported all going well; the next meeting is in a week or so, and the routes are pretty much sorted. |  |
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| **(c)** | **Chiltern Kanter 2017 – Norman Corrin** |  |
|  | Details are in August Strider All checkpoint halls have been booked and Safran Power Systems have kindly agreed to let us use their company’s car park.3 routes of 26, 18 and 13 miles. £7 LDWA and £10 non LDWA. No entries on the day and Entry Limit of 300. Online or postal entries accepted.13 mile route has been checked by Alan. Mike and I to walk out final sections of medium and long route in September.I’ll send Mary details of last Kanter catering |  |
|  | Norman said: |  |
|  | SI entries went live 1st August. |  |
|  | Marshals’ walk to be held on 12th February. |  |
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| **8.** | **Donations/Projects** |  |
|  | Not discussed – we have various possible merchandise purchases. |  |
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| **9.** | **Group Activities/Weekends/Social Events** |  |
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| **(a)** | **Greensand Ridge Walk - Gill Bunker**  |  |
|  | Gill’s report was circulated before the meeting: |  |
|  | 26 walkers, great feedback after the event, though some murmurings in the ranks whilst walking.£605 taken in entries, costs £680.01 so BBN subsidised the day by £75.01. Two x £22 entry fees were returned (agreed by email majority decision), which increased the subsidy to £119.01.A massive thank you to all who helped make the day – Dee and DFH for leading (again), Lynn and Dave for the breakfast and all other helpers. I hope Mary and Dennis heard the *Wows* when we walked into the lunch stop and *This is fantastic* as the food was served. Also extra mention of Norman who gave up the Euros final to help, and drove one walker from Woburn to Leighton Buzzard when he could have been watching Ronaldo conquer Europe.There has been talk of doing it again (yes, even when folk were still walking) – 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. Two members (both walked this time) have said they would help if it was held again.Things to consider if held again in two years:1. The date needs to fit in with the FT&B **AND** the World Cup.
2. The coach and Parkside Hall were the expensive items.
3. Need to consider – with a view to finances:
* Organising the day in a similar way to this year’s – i.e. probably subsidised again
* Simpler catering (i.e. cheaper)
* Upping the entry fee
 |  |
|  | Dave said another idea was to walk a shorter distance with a similar format, possibly enabling more people to take part. |  |
|  | Re walking the GRW again on a Saturday – parking is only free in Leighton Buzzard on a Sunday. |  |
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| **(b)** | **AGM 27 November 2016 - Updates** |  |
|  | All present indicated they would stand for re-election at the AGM. |  |
|  | It was thought that Mary would also stand again. |  |
|  | Norman and Ian will stand down at the 2017 AGM. |  |
|  | Gill will take meal bookings. | ***Gill*** |
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| **10.** | **Appointment of independent auditor** |  |
|  | Dealt with under Treasurer’s report. |  |
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| **11.** | **AOB** |  |
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| **(a)** | **BBN AGM/Committee nomination deadlines** |  |
|  | To be notified to all members as required. | ***Peter/Gill*** |
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| **(b)** | **Date of next committee meeting** |  |
|  | To be agreed following the AGM. |  |
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| **(c)** | **Steppingley Step: Charity Table Top Sale – Lynn Yorston** |  |
|  | I shall host a charity table top sale at this year’s Steppingley Step to raise monies for The Hearing Dogs for Deaf People charity. The tea donations will also be awarded to this charity. This is an ongoing project I am working on together with 1st Prestwood Brownies. |  |
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| The meeting closed at 9.35 pm |  |
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| **The AGM** will be held on 27th November 2016 2pm at The Anchor Inn, Great Barford, Beds. |

**National AGM 2017 Update- Norman Corrin**

A Beacon, A Bench, and a Boffin

Intrigued? I hope so!

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

The Beacon refers to Ivinghoe Beacon which is a prominent hill and landmark in the Chilterns. This is a regular hill visited by BBN on their social walks and there are gentle climbs and not so gentle climbs up to it. It marks the end (or the beginning) of the Ridgeway National Trail. The views from the top show off the Chilterns in all their glory particularly with the landmark of the windmill in Pitstsone Village where the group’s Chiltern Kanter Challenge Event has recently been organised from

The Bench refers to the BBN Founders Memorial Bench which was installed in 2009 to remember the 2 group Founder members who passed away within 6 months of each other just after the 25th Anniversary of the group. This is located on Ivinghoe Village Green which is opposite the now defunct Youth Hostel. This is where BBN took their fledgling steps in organising an event by helping Essex Herts with the Chiltern Kanter

The Boffin refers to the genius Alan Turing who worked at Bletchley Park which is where the coach trip will be going to. Turing is regarded as the founding father of modern computing. Bletchley Park has expanded greatly over the last few years and the site is one of those places where it is no exaggeration to say that history was made and it is calculated that the work carried out here shortened WW2 by 2 years. It was Churchill’s Golden Goose that laid the egg and never cackled.

On the coach trip on the way to Bletchley Park we hope to include a visit to Woodhill Prison, the (in)famous Concrete Cows, The Peace Pagoda on Willen Lake which is a Buddhist monument to World Peace and was the 1st erected in the Western Hemisphere

There will also be Steve, Pearl and Norman’s Quiz on Friday night.

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

* 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.. As stated BBN will be providing a lunch for the A and B routes

C Route 15 miles Walk Leader Sylvie Eames

* Horwood House to Winslow (1st Wellington Crash)
* Winslow to Swanbourne
* Swanbourne to Stewkley (Lunch at Carpenters Arms)
* Stewkley to Mursley (2nd Wellington Crash)
* Murslesy to Horwood House (3rd Wellington Crash)

Norman Smith from BBN has been helping Sylvie recce the walk. He is an ex RAF pilot with a keen aviation background which is why there are a lot of Wellington crashes…..

D route 10 miles Walk Leader Frances Craven.

Still to be walked out but there are several BBN walkers who have knowledge of the area. The route will be sorted in time for Strider deadline. This will not visit Wing Village Hall.

Coach Trip

* 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

Quiz

Steve is to happy to do it again although a general complaint was that it went on for too long. It did and will be shortened this year.

One of our members did mention that not everyone found the T-shirt round funny.

Guest Speaker

Richard Bradbury, Editor of Chiltern Magazine and Ex Strider Editor will be the guest speaker

Coach Hire

I’ve had a quote from Mason Coaches who are based in Cheddington which is cheaper than the other ones I’ve had £490 against £600

Wing Village Hall

This has been booked. BBN will provide the catering for the A and B routes

This will be either a ploughmans or soup and sandwiches. £3 or £2 to provide

Dave Yorston will speak to his brewery about a couple of barrels of beer. As we’re giving it away we don’t have to provide an Alcohol licence.

Yes to the AGM walks being included in the BBN Social Walks programme

**Norman Corrin**