**LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION: BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2017 AT 2 PM
COSGROVE VILLAGE HALL, NORTHANTS**

The meeting commenced at 2.05pm

**Present:** (23) Terry Brown, Gill Bunker (Website/Newsletter), Allan Burnett, Roy Carter, Norman Corrin, (Chairman 2017), John Davies, Graham Dolby, Karen Earwicker, Peter Engledow (Committee), Dave Findel-Hawkins (Membership), Phil Hastings, Mary Knight (Walks), Carolien Kratz, Merrian Lancaster, Alan Leadbetter (Committee), Jane O’Dea, Roger O’Dea, Judy Nickerson, Jim Robinson, Ian Sage (Treasurer 2017), Peter Simon (Secretary), Steve Smith, Pearl Smith

**Apologies**

Dee Brockway, Jackie Burnett, Chris Burns, Steve Clark, Sybil Davies, Sylvie Eames, Phil Friede, Mike Hyland, Sandra Hyland, Therese Jamin, Daniel Jamin, Pat Sage, Margaret Skerman,
Roger Skerman, Dave Sedgley, Gordon Shaughnessy, Lucy Tink, Dave Yorston, Lynn Yorston

**2. Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising**

The Minutes were approved as a true record. Prop: Peter Engledow, Sec: Dave Findel-Hawkins

**Matters Arising**: Norman Corrin referred to item 3(i) Newsletter Report in which Gill Bunker had said she was planning an on-line version of the Newsletter with the same text but to include more photographs. Gill said she had not done this, but had suggested in the last Newsletter that people read their hard copy and also take a look at the online version where the photographs display better, being full-sized and in colour.

**3. Officers’ Reports**

1. **Chairman: Norman Corrin’s report:**

Thanks to Gill for leading today’s walk and organising the food.

A favourite poem of Bob Paisley, the LFC Manager, was Rudyard Kipling’s ‘If’. A line from the poem states about Triumph and Disaster and treating those two imposters just the same. Sadly for BBN the year started with two disasters. The first was the tragic loss of Dave Norris in a flying accident followed one month later by the untimely death of one of the BBN stalwarts of the group for so many years John Nickerson.

It is at harrowing times like this that things get put into perspective and the support of the walking community, family and friends was most needed and appreciated by Sylvie and Judy and there were turnouts of BBN and LDWA friends to support them both in their darkest hour. The support is still there for them although it is inevitable that life goes on. Neither Dave nor John will ever be forgotten and we were pleased to see Sylvie on the walk and Judy here today.

From Disaster in the first two months of the year to what I hope was a minor triumph in March when BBN hosted the LDWA National AGM at Horwood House just outside Milton Keynes. The weekend seemed to go well although numbers were down slightly. For those of us who had never been to a national AGM before I hope you enjoyed the weekend. There will be a separate report about it later on in the meeting. Suffice to say, Pearl, Steve and I have been asked to do another quiz at next year’s National AGM. However Pearl is doing the T-Shirt round!

Speaking of T-Shirts and other merchandise, the group has gone up in the fashion stakes and acquired some Buffs with the group logo on which have been a great seller. This updated the “Where has your T-Shirt been?” to “Where has your BBN buff been?” They have appeared throughout all parts of the UK from the North York Moors 100 to the Leeds – Liverpool canal and have even been modelled whilst airborne by Daniel and Therese. Next year’s competition will be “How many more BBN buffs than Martin Lawson can you buy?”

We have also bought some new plastic mugs with the group logo on which will be on sale at all of the group challenge events and from the back of Mary’s car boot.

As mentioned in the Autumn Newsletter, a picture can paint a thousand words. Steve Clark excelled himself with a magnificent Strider photograph on the August cover and Martin Lawson walked into history at the NYM 100 Marshals’ event when he completed his 20th LDWA 100. I would like to open a book on him becoming the first person to complete 50 100s as he is still young enough to do so.

The group was greater than the sum of its parts on the NYM 100 Checkpoint 5 when we managed to squeeze 450 plus walkers into a sardine can…………or that’s what it felt like. Congratulations to Merrian, Dave and Mary for organising the layout so that we coped under such testing conditions and that we had nothing but compliments about our efforts. Thanks to all of the other marshals who contributed to such an outstanding effort.

Life is all about challenges, although some in the LDWA might say it is all about Challenge Events. It isn’t, but in 2017 the group put on three, namely *The Steppingley Step, The Chiltern Kanter* and the now sadly deceased *From Here to There and Back.* There will be further updates on these in the meeting but all passed off well and memorably. Thanks to all of the organisers and all of the marshals. Tesco are fond of saying “Every little helps” but on challenge events they really do. They wouldn’t happen without you.

With a full social walks programme of mid-week and weekend walks ably organised by Mary Knight the group has covered many different themes this year. They have included a Monopoly walk round MK, Tolkien’s The Hobbit, the marking of Dave and Lynn Yorston’s retirement, and a longer than normal Social walk round Corbyn, sorry Corby. We also hosted a visit from Santa and a cream tea walk. In this enlightened era we are certainly embracing different ideas including setting up the Facebook page which has been an outstanding success. Many thanks to Daniel for setting it up and I hope Brexit does not deter him from continuing with it!

Peter and all of the other committee members have continued on with their respective jobs without any fuss or drama. They just get on with the job and till you realise what they do you don’t appreciate how much work goes into running a group like this. So many thanks to them all for their efforts over this year and other years. That’s why volunteers never get paid because they’re priceless!

I mentioned different ideas which leads me onto different faces. Every organisation needs new faces. Thankfully Manchester Utd took that advice a few years ago and have never been the same since!

We are losing a couple of committee members this year. Ian Sage is standing down after 5 years of ably looking after our accounts which is no mean feat. He took over at short notice, grasped the nettle very quickly and made payments to group members a routine and easy matter. At times in committee meetings he’s quite rightly said “Let’s stop and think about this”. He’s also provided very good snacks and teas/coffees for the committee meetings! I’d like to thank him for all of his efforts throughout the years for the group and wish him and Pat well.

I’d like to welcome Peter Engledow who has joined the committee and has been nominated for the position of Treasurer.

I’d like to thank Gill for all of her efforts for the group over the last 30 years or so. She’s not retiring but I thought I’d say it anyway. As one of our newer members said she always feels very relaxed and chilled when Gill is around as she has an aura of calmness about her. Going off at a slight tangent I would like to thank her husband Ian for doing such a magnificent job cleaning the BBN Founders Memorial bench at Ivinghoe Village Green for its starring role in the Chiltern Kanter and the National AGM.

Finally I’m stepping down after 4 years in the Chairman’s Chur…. It’s been a privilege and an honour but it’s time to go. Thanks to all group members for their help and advice during my term.

Terry Brown has very kindly agreed to stand as Chairman. After Gill’s mum Sybil I believe she will be only the second female Chairman in the group’s history. After her brilliant help on the National AGM weekend she was an obvious choice.

So thank you all very much and I will continue to help out with the group. That means Phil you no longer have to treat me with the respect due to my position but can talk to me like a normal member!

There were no questions following Norman’s report.

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

Started sending weekly BBN news updates using the LDWA bulk e-mailing system as from start of April. The system works well from my point of view as it spares me much duplication of effort. It is a vast improvement over sending messages from my personal e-mail account. I no longer need to keep and update a list of e-mail addresses and to copy this list every week into the list of bcc recipients. Moreover, it brings us into compliance with the data protection guidelines as set out by the National Executive Committee. Many thanks to Dave F-H for setting this up.

12 extra copies of each Strider received from national LDWA. These are now distributed to Committee members at each Committee meeting. They have discretion to place them wherever they see fit. It was agreed that libraries are not the most suitable places to distribute them.

Received and responded to emails.
Few phone enquiries.
Fewer unwanted e-mails than previously - spam filters and unsubscribing seem to be working.

There were no questions following Peter’s report.

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

1. The Accounts have been prepared for 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017.
Total balance up from £6836.02 to £7248.07, an increase of £412.05
(This includes Shillington Shuffle 2017 entries of £873.18 and Pick n Mix 2018 entries of £97.60)
2. The accounts have been checked and found to be in order. They will be signed when approved by the AGM.
3. Sientries continues to be a very effective method of accepting event entries, making my job easier and, I am sure, leading to higher numbers of entries to events.
4. Donations made during the year were £70 to the Bedfordshire Walking Festival and £100 to the Warwickshire and Northants Air Ambulance. The latter now means that we have made donations to all three air ambulance organisations covering our region.
5. Membership – income down from £118 to £108. Paying for multiple years’ membership continues to be popular.
6. Printing and Postage costs remain fairly high at £258 for the year, although less than the £337 spent last year.
7. Merchandise
Fifty buffs were purchased and sold to members, with the group subsidising the sale price.
8. Equipment Purchases
Only £30 was spent on equipment, some tarpaulins.
9. Significant costs listed as ‘Miscellaneous’ include £270 meal subsidies for the 2016 AGM, £150 bunkhouse charge for the North Yorks Moors 100 which was not recoverable from the event, £157 costs for the national AGM which was recovered from the event and £30 each to 8 committee members to cover general expenses.
10. Steppingley Step 2016 expenses:
income - £1885.86 (inc FY2016)
expenditure - £1292.99
surplus - £592.87
11. Chiltern Kanter 2017 expenses:
income - £1592.54
expenditure - £1005.69
surplus - £586.85
12. From Here to There and Back Again 2017 expenses:
income - £841.00
expenditure - £815.42
surplus - £25.58
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. After 5 years as your Treasurer I am standing down and it has been a privilege and a pleasure serving the group and the committee in this time. My job has been made easier working with the best committee members I have ever worked with, and also our superb event organisers.
16. Unless there are any questions, we now need a motion passed to accept the accounts so that they can be signed off.

Ian stressed that the group does not put on events to make money, but it is always pleasing when a surplus is made and all BBN walk organisers are to be thanked for doing this.

**Proposal to Accept the Accounts**

It was proposed and seconded, that the Accounts should be accepted and this was AGREED.
Prop: Peter Engledow Sec: Merrian Lancaster

Ian confirmed he would arrange for the Accounts to be signed.

There were no questions following Ian’s report.

**LDWA BEDS/BUCKS/NORTHANTS GROUP**

**STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

**1st October 2016 - 30th September 2017**

 2017 2016

**INCOME £ £**

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 108.00 118.00

MERCHANDISE 246.50 50.50

INTEREST 0.55 1.82

MISCELLANEOUS 157.78 30.00

RED ROSE 100 CONTRIBUTION 0.00 250.00

DORSET 100 CONTRIBUTION 0.00 300.00

SUNDON SAUNTER 2015 0.00 1401.00

PICK N MIX 2016 0.00 909.08

HERE TO THERE 2016 0.00 1020.64

GREENSAND RIDGE WALK 2016 0.00 755.00

STEPPINGLEY STEP 2016 1431.66 454.20

CHILTERN KANTER 2017 1575.14 17.40

HERE TO THERE 2017 841.00 0.00

SHILLINGTON SHUFFLE 2017 873.18 0.00

PICK N MIX 2018 97.60 0.00

 5331.41 5307.64

2017 2016

EXPENDITURE £ £

PRINTING & POSTAGE 258.01 337.00

MERCHANDISE 333.27 202.74

EQUIPMENT 30.00 111.37

DONATIONS 170.00 200.00

AGM 62.00 265.00

CHRISTMAS WALK 0.00 45.78

MISCELLANEOUS 951.98 640.47

RED ROSE 100 CONTRIBUTIONS 0.00 237.50

DORSET 100 CONTRIBUTIONS 0.00 306.00

SUNDON SAUNTER 2015 0.00 1146.01

PICK N MIX 2016 0.00 470.44

HERE TO THERE 2016 0.00 806.51

GREENSAND RIDGE WALK 2016 0.00 874.01

STEPPINGLEY STEP 2016 1292.99 0.00

CHILTERN KANTER 2017 1005.69 0.00

HERE TO THERE 2017 815.42 0.00

 4919.36 5642.83

INCOME 5331.41

EXPENDITURE 4 4919.36

SURPLUS(LOSS) 412.05

01/10/16 (start of year) 6836.02

BALANCE 30/09/17 7248.07

**REPRESENTED BY**

**NatWest Current Account 3240.83**

**NatWest Business Reserve Account 4007.24**

 **7248.07**

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

According to the minutes of last year’s AGM we started the reporting year with 173 members. During the year we had 15 new members join and welcomed back 5 old members.

Due to data protection rules we have had to start using membership lists on the LDWA website rather than have our own copies. We have seven people who have paid their membership for 2017 but are not connected to the BBN membership list as either primary or associate members so currently do not receive emails or newsletters from BBN. There were three members who are no longer members of the LDWA so cannot belong to BBN despite having already paid in advance.

Seven members have contacted me and for various reasons have not renewed in 2017.

There are also seven who have not paid for 2017. Two have informed me that would like to remain members so are receiving BBN emails/newsletters while I wait for payment. The other five have not contacted me despite a recent email. They are not receiving emails as the LDWA bulk email doesn’t send to those who have a BBN renewal date in the past.

So our current BBN membership is probably 173 +20 -7 -3 -5 = 178.

I’ve emailed Norman details of 58 new individual and 7 new family members in our catchment area. Norman has contacted them either by telephone calls or emailed/posted information pack.

I continue to issue free BBN badges to any new members or the few existing members that have to yet to be given one.

There were no questions following Dave’s report.

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

|  |
| --- |
| **SOCIAL WALKS: THE STAGGERING STATISTICS** |
| **Date** |  | **Title** | **Walk Leader** | **Dist-ance** | **Walkers** | **Walk miles** | **Comments** |
| Sat Oct 1 2016 | w/e | Oh No! Not the Brickhills Again, Again | Peter Engledow | 18 | 12 | 216 |   |
| Thu Oct 6 | m/w | Underground, Overground | Bob Safford | 17 | 17 | 289 |   |
| Sun Oct 9 | w/e | A Collection of Nature Reserves | Therese Jamin | 20 | 15 | 300 |   |
| Sun Oct 16 | w/e | Blow Up | Peter Simon | 0 | 5 | 0 | Rained off |
| Thu Oct 20 | m/w | Doc Marten's Area | Roy Carter | 16 | 19 | 304 |   |
| Sun Oct 23 | w/e | Nature Trekking and a History Lesson | Wayne Rowlett | 18 | 7 | 126 |   |
| Sun Oct 30 | w/e | *Steppingley Step Marshals’ Walk* |   |  |  |  |   |
| Thu Nov 3 | m/w | A Little Bit of Bully | Roger Skerman | 14.5 | 16 | 232 |   |
| Sat Nov 5 | w/e | Peace and War | Jim Robinson | 20 | 14 | 280 |   |
| Sun Nov 13 | w/e | Unofficial walk | Peter Simon | 18 | 6 | 108 | 16th Oct re-run |
| Thu Nov 17 | m/w | Another Bit of Cross Bucks | Jim Morrison | 15 | 18 | 270 |   |
| Sun Nov 20 | w/e | *Steppingley Step Challenge Walk* |   |  |  |  |   |
| Sun Nov 27 | w/e | Walk & AGM | Gill Bunker | 9 | 20 | 180 |   |
| Thu Dec 1 | m/w | Milton Keynes Monopoly Walk: Part 2 | Brian Graves & David Findel-Hawkins | 15 | 24 | 360 |   |
| Sun Dec 11 | w/e | Tinsel at Towcester | Norman Corrin | 13 | 23 | 299 |   |
| Thu Dec 15 | m/w | Risdene Railway Romp Where's Rudolph? | Adrian Moody | 13 | 20 | 260 |   |
| Thu Dec 29 | m/w | Year End Stroll | Gordon Shaughnessy | 15 | 19 | 285 |   |
| Sun Jan 8 2017 | w/e | Another Anchor Inn - New Year Walk + Meal | Steve Smith | 8 | 17 | 136 |   |
| Thu Jan 12 | m/w | Nene Way to Barnwell and a Sandwich Hunt | Geoff Curnock | 15 | 10 | 150 |   |
| Sun Jan 22 | w/e | The Two Moors Trail - Deconstructed | David Sedgley | 19 | 15 | 285 |   |
| Thu Jan 26 | m/w | Two Mills Link | Derek Jacob | 15 | 28 | 420 |   |
| Sat Feb 4 | w/e | In Search of the County Boundary | Mary Knight | 18 | 12 | 216 |   |
| Thu Feb 9 | m/w | From Brickfields to Country Park | Roy Carter | 16 | 25 | 400 |   |
| Sun Feb 12 | w/e | *Chiltern Kanter Marshals’ Walk* |   |  |  |  |   |
| Sat Feb 18 | w/e | Ambling the Ouse to Olney | Gill Bunker | 20 | 17 | 340 |   |
| Thu Feb 23 | m/w | Three Locks Meander | Geoff Hancock | 16 | 13 | 208 |   |
| Sun Mar 5 | w/e | *Chiltern Kanter Challenge Walk* |   |  |  |  |   |
| Thu Mar 9 | m/w | Santa(s) (i) Pod - 290 days to Xmas | Adrian Moody | 16 | 29 | 464 |   |
| 10-12 Mar | w/e | *National AGM Weekend* |   |  |  |  |   |
| Thu Mar 23 | m/w | The Secret Elephant Walk | Steve McMorrow & Colin Stoneman | 15 | 32 | 480 |   |
| Sun Apr 2 | w/e | Toddington Toddle | Sylvie Eames & Claire Frances | 17 | 11 | 187 |   |
| Thu Apr 6 | m/w | The Hobbit | Roger Skerman | 15 | 23 | 345 |   |
| Thu Apr 20 | m/w | In Search of the Black Gelding | Steve McMorrow  | 15 | 23 | 345 |   |
| Sun Apr 23 | w/e | Breaking the Brickhills | Sylvie Eames  | 15 | 14 | 210 |   |
| Fri May 5 | m/w | Dave & Lynn's Retirement Walk | Dave Yorston | 15 | 15 | 225 |   |
| Sat May 13 | w/e | Loopy in Rushmere | Peter Engledow | 17 | 10 | 170 |   |
| Thu May 18 | m/w | Behold a Giant | Jim Robinson | 15 | 16 | 240 |   |
| Thu Jun 1 | m/w | Trains and Boats and Planes (Perhaps) | Bob Safford | 16 | 17 | 272 |   |
| Sun Jun 4 | w/e | Woburn, Potsgrove and Eversholt | Linda Marsh | 16 | 15 | 240 |   |
| Sun Jun 11 | w/e | *From Here to There and Back Marshals’ Walk* |   |  |  |  |   |
| Thu Jun 15 | m/w | Here 'n' There | Alan Leadbetter | 16 | 14 | 224 |   |
| Thu Jun 29 | m/w | Travelling Again | Dianne Sutton | 15 | 17 | 255 |   |
| Sun Jul 9 | w/e | *From Here to There and Back Challenge Walk* |   |  |  |  |   |
| Thu Jul 13 | m/w | Albino 3 (figure of 8) | Roger Skerman | 16.5 | 24 | 396 |   |
| Sat Jul 15 | w/e | A Walk Around Corby | Wayne Rowlett | 34 | 9 | 306 |   |
| Sun Jul 23 | w/e | Wendover South West | Peter Simon | 19 | 16 | 304 |   |
| Thu Jul 27 | m/w | Three Five Tons | Roy Carter | 17 | 16 | 272 |   |
| Sat Jul 29 | w/e | The Chairman's Cream Tea Trot | Norman Corrin | 18 | 14 | 252 |   |
| Sun Aug 6 | w/e | Woodnewton Wander | Graham Dolby | 20 | 8 | 160 |   |
| Thu Aug 10 | m/w | Single to Grafton Regis | Mike Bowley | 15 | 21 | 315 |   |
| Sun Aug 20 | w/e | The Godmanchester Gallop | Steve Smith | 17 | 9 | 153 |   |
| Thu Aug 24 | m/w | Summer at Wetherspoons Again | David Findel-Hawkins | 15 | 24 | 360 |   |
| Sun Sep 3 | w/e | The Three Rings of Tebworth | Peter Simon | 19 | 16 | 304 |   |
| Thu Sep 7 | m/w | Rest at Wrest | Roger Skerman | 16 | 16 | 256 |   |
| Sun Sep 10 | w/e | Kingfisher Way | Roy Carter | 22 | 31 | 682 |   |
| Thu Sep 21 | m/w | Glenn's Twin? Wood You Believe It? | Adrian Moody | 16 | 19 | 304 |   |
| Sun Sep 24 | w/e | Walk with No Name | Alan Leadbetter | 17 | 7 | 119 |   |
|   |   |   |   | **813** | **838** | **13504** |   |
|  |
| This Year we have had 50 Social Walks, 3 Challenge Events and associated Marshals’ walks plus the National AGM walks |
| Social walks have covered 813 miles with a total of 838 walkers, totalling 13,504 people miles. |
| There have been 31 different walk leaders with 3 individuals leading 4 walks, 1 leading 3 walks, 11 leading 2 walks and 16 leading 1 (3 jointly) |
| There have been 26 Thursday walks totalling 515 walkers, averaging 20 on a walk, totalling 401 miles, averaging 15 miles per walk and totalling 7931 people miles |
| There have been 24 weekend social walks totalling 323 walkers, averaging 13.5 on a walk, totalling 412 miles, averaging 17 miles per walk and totalling 5573 people miles  |

Mary said the attendances on walks had remained fairly constant over the last few years, and she was pleased that lots of people were coming forward to lead walks.

There were no questions following Mary’s report.

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

I have handed all the merchandise over now and at the moment, it is being stored with Dave Findel-Hawkins.

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

As far as I have been informed, the equipment list is fully up to date and can be viewed on our website. I shall send Peter and Gill a new list if any updates are highlighted at this AGM.

Just an observation – it would be good if those who keep the equipment could have about three weeks’ notice of the gear being required. It is all kept in attics and we need time to assemble and pack the goodies ready for collection.

**The collection, cleaning and prompt return of all equipment is the responsibility of the event organiser.**

I am willing to still store the goodies as noted and shall continue co-ordinating the equipment list if the committee so wishes.

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

* Lots of photos/links added after group walks and events; thanks particularly to Merrian and Dave, Steve Clark and Wahid, the main contributors over the past year.
* BBN challenge walk information, route descriptions and results added.
* New *Events Archive* page set up – so the *Challenge Events* page only shows the current/upcoming event.
* *Latest News* (hopefully) kept up to date.
* Instructions on how to order BBN branded merchandise added to *Merchandise* page.
* This is my second year of looking after the website and strangely I do quite enjoy doing it. But if there is anyone out there who would be interested in taking it on, please do say. At the moment I am simply updating the site, but I would be pleased to receive any comments or suggestions on how it might be taken forward.

There were no questions following Gill’s report.

1. **Newsletter: Gill Bunker’s report:**:
* Three newsletters this year.
* Good and varied supply of articles from members – thank you to all contributors.
* 83 members currently prefer a hard copy version of the newsletter. Printing costs are relatively cheap; it is the postage that puts the cost up. I have tried to hand Newsletters out rather than post them, but this is not always possible and a lot of regular walkers are happy to look online and don’t want a hard copy anyway.
* 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, they are reduced in size, and never look as good as in the online version. (Although of course anyone who gets a hard copy of the newsletter to read at their leisure can look online.)
* I have been looking after the Newsletter for some time (we are talking decades here) and it would probably be beneficial if someone with a fresh approach took over.

There were no questions following Gill’s report.

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

The 2017 local group representatives meeting was held November 10-12 at the Hawes youth hostel. Here are my subjective takeaways from the sessions.

* **Food hygiene and catering at events** - Proposals have been raised that, for compliance with health and safety regulations, catering staff at events may be required to have certification of training in food hygiene. There is no fixed policy at present. A key concern is the cost of training - would this discourage volunteers from manning checkpoints. All we can do at this point is to watch this space.
* **Data protection** **-** New legislation will come into force in May 2018. Steph Carter of the NEC will shortly be attending a training course on compliance and will report back on the implications for local groups. One of the proposed guidelines is that only one member of each group be allowed to hold membership details. This was criticised at the meeting on the basis that there is no backup in case misadventure should befall that member.
* **Charges to use national parks, National Trust land etc. on events -** The policy appears to be that we are within our rights to use public rights of way without being charged a fee. The National Trust backed down on charging a fee on one event when the local group refused to pay. However, it was agreed that the National Trust and national parks are within their rights to charge for checkpoints, toilet facilities and so on.
* **Business Plan 2018-20 -** The NEC is working on a Business Plan for 2018-2020. A whole evening session was devoted to the discussion of various issues. Julie Cribb will report back to the NEC on this session.
* **Insurance** - It is not clear whether the LDWA's liability insurance requires members to sign an attendance sheet on every social walk or challenge event. This will be referred back to Sandy Gee of the NEC for guidance. Meanwhile, local groups should carry on as they have in the past. Visitors and guests should provide emergency details at the start of each walk. These details will subsequently be destroyed. Each visitor or guest on a social walk will be permitted to attend three times before being required to join the LDWA. The LDWA's insurance policy covers path clearance prior to a walk or an event. It does not cover activities outside the UK. If walkers remove themselves from a social or challenge event they are no longer covered by LDWA insurance and are no longer the responsibility of the walk leader. The same applies to walkers who are disqualified (for example, by failing a kit check).
* **Pleas for help** - The 2018 Cinque Ports and 2019 Hadrian 100s are still anxious for more volunteers, from groups or even individuals. The Cinque Ports 100 is particularly short of help on the marshals' walk. Contact Julie Cribb if you are interested.
* **Publicity** - The Essex & Herts group has recently placed an article in *Essex Life* concerning the group's activities. Might it be possible for other groups to gain publicity in a similar manner?

Arising from Peter’s report:

The taking of visitors’ and guests’ emergency details at the start of BBN groups – this seems to have lapsed recently and it was agreed that a reminder should be included in a Weekly Update with a link to the appropriate form.

There were no further questions following Peter’s report.

4. **Election of Officers**

**(a) Chair**In the absence of any other nominations Terry Brown was elected as Chairman and took the chair for the rest of the meeting.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Nominee** | **Name of proposer** | **Name of seconder** |
| **Chair** | Terry Brown | Norman Corrin | Gill Bunker |

**(b), (c) (d) Election of Other Officers:
In th**e absence of any other nominations the following officers were then elected:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Nominee** | **Name of proposer** | **Name of seconder** |
| **Secretary** | Peter Simon | John Davies | Gill Bunker |
| **Treasurer** | Peter Engledow | Sylvie Eames | Norman Corrin |
| **Walks Secretary** | Mary Knight | Linda Marsh | Adrian Moody |

**(e)** **Election of Committee Members**
Terry said there were five nominations for committee positions; this left one position vacant. No-one at the meeting indicated a wish to join the committee and the remaining committee members were then elected en bloc:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Nominee** | **Name of proposer** | **Name of seconder** |
| **Committee member** | David Findel-Hawkins | Merrian Lancaster | James Robinson |
| **Committee member** | Norman Corrin | John Davies | Dee Brockway |
| **Committee member** | Roy Carter | Bob Safford | Geoff Curnock |
| **Committee member** | Gill Bunker | Matthew Lane | Gill McMorrow |
| **Committee member** | Alan Leadbetter | Jackie Burnett | Stephen Clark |

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

It was agreed that this be dealt with at the next committee meeting.
Lynn Yorston had previously indicated that she would be nominated person to maintain the list of the group’s equipment.

**(g) Cheque Signatories:**

Ian Sage said that Peter Engledow proposes to open a new bank account for the group.

Ian said that cheque signatories are required, but most group payments are now made online and BBN’s current bank, NatWest, accepts only one signature on group cheques.

It was agreed that the three cheque signatories will be: Peter Engledow, Norman Corrin, Gill Bunker.

**5. Administration Fee for 2018**

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

Dave Findel-Hawkins questioned whether the group administration fee was now necessary. He said the group does not need the income from administration fees, and one advantage of getting rid of it would be that all LDWA members in our area could be included in our emails. Dave confirmed he would be able to keep a list of those who wanted a hard copy of the Newsletter.

**It was then proposed that BBN drop its administration fee.
Prop: Merrian Lancaster; Sec: Jim Robinson, and agreed unanimously on a show of hands.**

Allan Burnett commented that he disagreed with this as he felt that, as a matter of principle, people should pay something to belong to the group. Carolien Kratz asked what other groups do and how much they charge. Dave Findel-Hawkins replied that most groups now make no charge, although some do charge for a hard copy Newsletter. Some groups do, however, retain an administration fee.

Terry Brown asked if there would be a problem where some people had already paid in advance. Dave Findel-Hawkins replied that we were coming to the end of a 5 year period that some members had paid for in advance so this would be a good time to change. He would not propose, however, to pay back any odd £1s that had been paid in advance.

It was agreed that the payment of an administration f can be reviewed at any time in the future.

**6. Health and Safety/Insurance Issues**

There were no items to be reported.

**7. Donations/Projects: Norman Corrin**

As mentioned by Ian in his report we made Donations of £170 to the following:

* £70 to the Bedfordshire Walking Festival
* £100 to the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance

There was a further donation made to the NSPCC of £100 on behalf of Sylvie in memory of Dave. However that will be in next year’s accounts and does not fall in this year’s accounting period.

**Projects:** We ordered 50 buffs at the start of the year which have sold well. We’ve ordered 50 more but there is a hitch with the colour which is being investigated at the moment.

We’ve also ordered 100 mugs with the group logo on which will be on offer at challenge events and other walking outlets…….e.g. Mary’s car boot sale.

We are erecting a bench in memory of John Nickerson. I’ve contacted the gentleman who made our Founders Memorial Bench and will be meeting him to discuss ideas and costs in December. I would like it to be located in the Barton Hills area as this was where the Shillington Shuffle route goes.

Terry asked that members pass on any ideas they have for donations to the committee.

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

**(a) Steppingley Step 2016: Merrian Lancaster, Dave Findel-Hawkins,
 Lynn Yorston, Dave Yorston, Mike Hyland**

The route had some minor changes due to reducing checkpoints from 4 to 3. The long route loop reverted to clockwise direction. It was a shame we had to turn away a couple of dozen people as we had 70 non-starters. For the Shillington Shuffle in 2017 we’ll have a waiting list, so hopefully that will cut down on some non-shows!!

The Marshals’ Walk took place on Sunday 30th October. Lynn, Terry and Merrian provided some support. 11 people did the marshals’ walk on the day, or thereabouts. It didn’t rain on the marshals’ walk!

For checkpoints we used Westoning Village Hall, Parkside Hall Ampthill and Flitton Church Hall, plus HQ in the Village Hall, Barton-le-Clay. Many thanks to all those who manned checkpoints & HQ, 28 people at various times. Thanks to Roy Carter, Jim Catchpole and Phil Friede who helped in the car park, at very short notice, before doing the event. The food was popular and varied; we didn't have lots left over. The checkpoint teams worked well and all went to plan.

No one arrived at CP1 or CP2 early, but one did at CP3 and had to wait outside about 20 minutes. He admitted he had started at the wrong time. Two people on the 12 mile route, doing their first LDWA event, got lost before CP1 and returned to HQ. Two people on the 26 mile route lost a mobile phone before CP1, and returned to HQ. Two people on the 26 mile route retired at CP1. There was a short out-and-back at CP2 and at CP3, easily missed if you weren’t reading the route description. One person, on the 18 mile route, only followed the route on the gps and missed CP3. Another, on the 26 mile route, also just following the route on the gps, missed CP3, but went back. Another, on the 26 mile route, just following the gps, missed CP2.

The last two finished with half an hour to spare, so we were cleared up well before the hall closed.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Entries** | **Starters** | **Non-starters** | **Did not complete (missed a checkpoint)** | **Finished** |
| 12 mile | 41 | 35 | 6 (14.63%) | 0 | 35 |
| 18 mile | 65 | 51 | 14 (21.54%) | 0 | 51 |
| 26 mile | 192 | 142 | 50 (26.04%) |  | 142 |
| overall | 300 | 230 | 70 (23.33%) | 6 | 230 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Finances** |  |  |  |
|  | **Income** |  | **Expenditure** |
| Entries | £1885.86 | Food | £429.99 |
| Total | £1885.86 | Hall hire | £461.00 |
|  |  | Other (van hire, printing) | £402.00 |
|  |  | Total | £1292.99 |
| Income | £1885.86 |  |  |
| Expenditure | £1292.99 |  |  |
| Surplus | £592.87 |  |  |

65 people qualified for their S-S-S triple certificate and badge, including 7 marshals. 35 qualified for their first triple, including 2 marshals and 30 qualified for their second triple, including 5 marshals, thereby gaining an embellished certificate

Thanks to all the marshals who helped to make it a jolly good event.

**(b) Chiltern Kanter 2017: Norman Corrin**

This was the 19th Chiltern Kanter and memorable mainly for the weather. We’ve heard lots of tales from members who took part on it and the common theme is hanging on for grim death on top of Ivinghoe Beacon.

Those 7 of us on the Marshals Walk two weeks earlier were traipsing through snow and ice so no-one had an easy time of it, unless you believe Steve Clark’s alternative Kanter in the summer newsletter!

The routes were different from the previous 2 years and took in Little Gaddesden, Ashridge Business College, over to Wigginton and then returned to Pitstone. If you were on the 26 mile route you had the option of an 8 mile loop from Wigginton Village Hall out to St Leonards which then returned back to Wigginton and then onto the finish at Pitstone.

Peter Engledow, Merrian and DFH had the fun of deciding if the entrants had answered the questions correctly from a paper mache mess which can’t have been easy.

None of the marshals had it easy that day and both Mike and I give heartfelt thanks to all who helped at CP 1 where the floor turned from cream to black pretty quickly. CP 2/3 where the chairs had to be covered to shield them from the entrants’ mud covered clothing. Mary and her band of little helpers were having all the fun in the kitchen at parties as normal. Final thanks to those who helped in the car park at Safran Power Systems. It was a memorable day.

Figures are as below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| .Route | Pre-entered | Withdrew | Non-Starters | Retirements | Total |
| Long | 114 | 4 | 24 | 3 | **83** |
| Medium | 69 | 2 | 16 | 1 | **50** |
| Short | 40 | 1 | 3 | 2 | **34** |
| **Total** | **223** | **7** | **43** | **6** | **167** |

Norman said the 2019 Chiltern Kanter would be the 20th, and confirmed that the 2019 event would be the last organised by Mike Hyland and himself.

**(c) From Here to There & Back 2017**: **Alan Leadbetter**

Marshals’ walk highlighted two areas of concern with fields of oil seed rape, fields were reported to rights of way and Street Doctor but were not cleared in time for the event. I spent the Saturday morning trying to clear a path through one area so it was clear which way to go.

108 entries, 12 non-starters, 95 finished and 1 retired

A mention must go to the Darlington family as all 6 (youngest being under 5) finished the short route. Hope we see them on future BBN events.

Made a surplus £25.58.

**(d) Pick & Mix 2018: Lynn & Dave Yorston, Mike & Sandra Hyland**

We have booked the Great Missenden C of E School for 4th March 2018.

All details have been included in Strider and our Newsletter.

We will not have a designated Marshals’ walk. Anyone helping on the day can ask us for the route descriptions they wish to complete and can do this at any time near the event. Most helpers do their duties at the start and finish but then walk on the day. The choice is open but we only need a handful of people all day.

**(e) Hannington Hike 2018: Alan Leadbetter**

Next year’s event will be the Hannington Hike with new routes of 27, 18, and 14 miles, starting from the same place. The main event will be on Sunday 15th July and the marshals’ walk on 17th June. HQ and checkpoints booked.
Short route description done and awaiting checking, also will need volunteers to check middle and long routes when they are done to check that wording is ok.

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**9. LDWA Hundreds: Norman Corrin**

1. **North York Moors 2017**

This year’s event was in the North York Moors National Park starting from Malton.

Our group was on Checkpoint 5 at Rosedale Bunk House which was 31 miles into the event. We were fortunate in that we had booked the bunkhouse for the group for the weekend.

The hot conditions on the Saturday were unexpected and caught a lot of people out.

With 478 walkers being squeezed into a confined space it was a very busy time and due to changes in the menu for the food being served it meant that Mary was kept quite occupied and played a blinder in getting everything organised.

The lack of room meant a lot of juggling about with keeping walkers seated and although the hot weather was a burden to the entrants it was also a bonus to the checkpoint staff in that walkers were willing to sit outside and enable some more room inside the checkpoint.

Merrian produced a table after the event showing that between 7 and 8 pm we had 150 walkers and between 8 and 9 pm we had 151 walkers. No wonder it was manic.

After the checkpoint had officially closed some checkpoint staff remained on duty until 4 am due to accounting errors on the checkpoint after us. That really is going beyond the call of duty

Congratulations to those who finished, in particular Tony Hill who received his 10th LDWA 100 award, Peter Hamson his 20th 100 award, and Martin Lawson who completed his 20th 100 on the Marshals’ Walk. Commiserations to those who didn’t finish. There’s always next year in Kent.

Many thanks to all who helped on the checkpoint and then went on to help out elsewhere. Your efforts were appreciated by all.

Norman said it had been pleasing to be able to upload photos of BBN walkers to Facebook as they arrived at the finish.

1. **Cinque Ports 2018**

Next year’s 100 is organised by Kent Group. BBN does not have a group checkpoint for the event although Dave and Merrian are running the last checkpoint on the event. The organisers still require helpers so if anyone does wish to assist then please contact Neil Rourke at nealorourke@hotmail.co.uk

(c)(d)(e)
Ref the following 100s listed below I have no information about them.
**Hadrian's Hundred 2019
Y 100 Sir Fynwy 2020
Trans Pennine 2021**

It was confirmed that at present BBN have not offered to run a CP on any of the future Hundreds.

**10. Constitution – *any comments, favourable or otherwise – on how it is working?***

Terry Brown said she thought it was working OK. Peter Simon felt the nomination process had proved cumbersome; Terry said having nominations with proposers and seconders up front made it easier to work through the election of officers and committee at the AGM. It was agreed this was the first year that the new constitution had been in effect and that the organising of the nominations would be sorted in good time in future, Terry wondered if the nominations could be made by email?

It was confirmed that the new constitution is currently with the National LDWA for approval.

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

(a) **BBN Host National AGM 2017: Norman Corrin**

One week after the Chiltern Kanter BBN were honoured to host the National AGM for the first time at Horwood House, Little Horwood, just outside Milton Keynes.

From the feedback received from various sources the members enjoyed the various routes that we had laid on for them. Steve, Pearl and I managed to entertain the members with a quiz on Friday night and no expense was spared or spent on the prizes……

The A and B walkers were able to visit the BBN Founders’ Memorial Bench and in particular the A walkers could appreciate the view from the top of Ivinghoe Beacon, unlike their counterparts on the Kanter the weekend before.

The A and B routes were royally fed and looked after by the group at Wing Village Hall and the C and D routes were amply catered for by their respective hostelries. I felt an immense amount of pride when I walked into Wing Village Hall and saw the effort that Mary, Dennis, Gill, Dave and Lynn had put in into preparing the hall for our visitors.

Dianne Sutton received very good reviews from all of those who went on the Coach Trip to Bletchley Park. The coach driver said he drove into Milton Keynes each day and he learnt quite a bit from Dianne. The party visited the Concrete Cows and many stated that the amount of time they had at Bletchley Park was not enough.

Many thanks to Dave & Merrian, Teresa Brown, Sylvie & Norman Smith and Chris Bent and Frances Craven for leading the walks. We were lucky with the weather and fortunately the coach timings all seemed to work out. In particular I would like to pay tribute to Sylvie for leading her walk which after recent events must have been particularly painful for her.

The lecture on the Saturday night by Richard Bradbury, the former Strider Editor, gave a very good overview of the Chilterns and the efforts of The Chiltern Society to look after them.

The National AGM on the Sunday morning at times got quite heated, but healthy debate amongst a group is a good sign. I hope for those of us whose first National AGM it was that you enjoyed it.

The weekend for me was rounded off by reversing into one of the hotel staff’s cars and then giving Barbara Blatchford a lift to Central Milton Keynes train station. Since then I’ve not washed my car and have asked Gill to sit on the back seat when giving her a lift.

Terry said there had been positive feedback from attendees and thanked Noman for doing a great job.

(b) **Autumn Colours: Gill Bunker**Gill said this had been a 25 mile linear group walk in October. It would be possible to walk it again
in reverse at a different time of year if there was any demand.

**(c) Possible Group Weekend**

Roy Carter had previously proposed a group holiday and said he had been canvassing members’ views. He said he was happy to organise a holiday, the preferred option being that people booked their own accommodation. Dave Findel-Hawkins said September was probably not the best time to choose as there were lots of events on that month. Suggestions include a long weekend in Snowdonia or the Lake District, possibly over the August Bank Holiday. Roy will report back.

It is noted that Dee Brockway is planning a group weekend in 2019.

**(d) Ideas for future group activities?**

Phil Hastings asked whether the group could put on more figure of 8 walks or walks planned to have a shorter alternative, specifically on a Thursday, to enable members who are coming back from injury to join them. Phil said it was a bit ad hoc at the moment, involving a phone call to the walk leader to see if a shortcut was available. Walks with a shorter option could be flagged up via Updates/Walk info. It was confirmed that a walker opting to take a shorter option would not be led.

**12. Publicity – Can we do more?**

**(a) Social Media – Facebook, Twitter**

**(b) Website, News Updates**

**(c) Spare copies of Strider**

Peter Simon mentioned the Essex Herts article in Essex Life he had referred to earlier – could we do something similar with local paper/’magazines in our area.

Merrian Lancaster suggested that someone could write an article with a picture that could be used in each area to save duplication. Terry Brown thought a “stock article” that different members could use was an excellent idea. Peter will obtain a copy of the Essex Herts article so we can see what they include in it. Phil Hastings said local papers and magazines are always on the lookout for cost-free editorials.

Peter Engledow suggested inviting the local press to one of our events. Merrian said she would mention this to Dave and Lynn Yorston as the Pick and Mix was BBN’s next event.

To be discussed further at the next committee meeting.

It was confirmed that Facebook is working well and thanks were extended to Daniel Jamin for his work adding events and updating the header photo. Membership is now 78.

Business cards were mentioned – It was confirmed that we are already handing these out.

Spare Striders: Committee members are taking these two events, sports shops etc. Peter had a supply of December Striders which various members took after the meeting to circulate.

**13. Update on PACER**

It was confirmed that Merrian Lancaster has looked into the possible use of PACER on BBN challenge walks, but has concluded that at present it would not assist us in the managing of our events. Terry said that PACER will probably be refined in the future and BBN may well then decide to use it.
It was confirmed that the system uses a barcode, not a chip.

**14 A.O.B.**

1. Steve Smith asked whether the Greensand Ridge walk was being planned again for 2018.

 Gill said there were no plans to hold it next year at the moment.

1. It was noted that 2018 will be BBN’s 35th anniversary, but it was agreed to wait and celebrate

 the 40th anniversary.

(c) Wendover Gap – BBN Anytime Challenge (Lynn Yorston). There have been no new

 completions this summer.

Terry thanked everybody for attending the AGM.

The meeting closed at 3.40pm

**Next committee meeting:**

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday 1st February 2018 at 7.45pm

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