



**LDWA : BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2019**



The meeting commenced at 3pm

Present: 32

Dee Brockway, Terry Brown (Chair), Gill Bunker (Newsletter/Website), Chris Burns, Graham Busch, Roy Carter, Norman Corrin, John Davies, Karen Earwicker, Peter Engledow, Dave Findel-Hawkins, (Membership), Phil Friede, Brian Harwood, Frank Hodgson, Mike Hyland, Sandra Hyland, Paul Keech, Mary Knight (Walks), Merrian Lancaster. Alan Leadbetter (Committee Member), Sue Leonard, Judy Nickerson, Jane O'Dea, Roger O'Dea, David Sedgley, Gordon Shaughnessy, Peter Simon (Secretary), Steve Smith, Pearl Smith, Sara Waldron (Committee Member), Dave Yorston, Lynn Yorston.

Terry welcomed everyone and thanked:

- David Sedgley for leading the walk and for organising the lunch and meeting.
- Peter Engledow for arranging the £10 meal subsidy for all who attended the AGM.
- Karen Earwicker for organising the teas/coffee and for the delicious cake.

1. Apologies

Christine Bramley, Daniel Jamin, Therese Jamin, Val Thompson

2. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising

Correction: Item 8(b) Y 100 Sir Fynwy 2020 The BBN CP is **CP5**, Abergavenny

The Minutes were approved as a true record. Prop: Sara Waldron, Sec: Norman Corrin and agreed.

Matters Arising:

- Item 5 Health & Safety/Insurance Issues: Knives:** Merrian Lancaster had been in contact with David Morgan (LDWA Chair & Y 100 Sir Fynwy 2020 organising team) regarding the carrying of knives in a rucksack. David has confirmed there is no problem if a person has a reasonable excuse for carrying a knife. Carrying various other items, e.g. a fork, could also be illegal. It is technically true, but realistically not. The Y 100 Sir Fynwy 2020 organisers do not want to use plastic cutlery.
- Item 8 Health & Safety/Insurance Issues: Maintaining a record of walkers on group walks:** Terry confirmed this was happening and was working well.
- Item 6(a): John Nickerson Memorial:** Terry confirmed a plaque in memory of John had been placed on the Memorial Bench at Ivinghoe.

3. Officers' Reports

(a) Chairman – Terry Brown

I'm giving a brief overview of the Group's activities and happenings for our reporting year - 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019; more detailed reports have been written by those directly involved.

We were saddened to hear that Sybil Davies, BBN founder member and former Walks Secretary and Chairman, had passed away in January, a day before her 90th birthday. Interesting tributes were written about her love of walking and maps, her exploits in the Group's early days and her friendship with John Nickerson. It was fitting that a plaque for Sybil was added to the BBN Founders' memorial bench at Ivinghoe to go alongside the plaque for John that had been attached earlier in the year.

Your Committee – myself, Peter Simon, Peter Engledow, Gill Bunker, Mary Knight, Dave Findel-Hawkins, Alan Leadbetter, Roy Carter and Sara Waldron – met formally 3 times during the year to steer the Group's activities and respond to requirements of the LDWA's National Executive Committee. Also, where necessary, we acted quickly to resolve situations that required immediate attention; making and agreeing decisions by email communication between us. I would like to thank the Committee for their excellent work,

continued support and encouragement. I can honestly say that working with all of them has been an absolute pleasure.

Communications - we continued to provide members with information, updates and news through Peter Simon's weekly emails, the BBN website and Facebook. Many thanks to Peter and Gill Bunker who do most of this work. Gill also produced 3 excellent newsletters, took the minutes at our Committee meetings and AGM, uploaded our walks programme for Strider and kept our website up to date! Peter Engledow has taken on our Twitter account management and our presence in this forum is steadily growing.

We've had a frustrating year with recurring glitches in the LDWA bulk emailing facility which has meant that some members have emails from LDWA addresses going into spam mail boxes. We're concerned that some may not realise there's a problem and could have missed out on our comms. Peter Simon has raised this several times with Adam Dawson, LDWA IT lead, who has provided some fixes which work for a short time but the LDWA's IT supplier seems to have run out of ideas for a permanent solution to this problem. We will continue to find 'work arounds' to this problem.

Finance – many thanks to Peter Engledow for looking after our finances which, the accounts show, are in a stable position. We've been able to make some donations this year which have all been well received. Future spending plans include a Greensand Ridge bench replacement project, BBN marshal T shirts, new banners and handout cards.

Social walks – we've had an excellent, varied programme of Thursday and weekend social walks again this year. Thanks to Mary Knight for coordinating the programme and to everyone who has led a walk. We introduced an 'available walk dates' page on our website (also published in the newsletter) so that everyone can see walk dates well in advance. Dates without leaders by Strider publication deadline are now entered as 'To be arranged' using the website to provide updated details when available. This appears to be working well. As ever, we would welcome some new faces as walk leaders - if you haven't led a walk before please consider having a go. We can support first timers on route planning and leading.

This year we've started to record walker's name/membership number/emergency contact details on our social walks as required by the LDWA's insurers. We are doing this in a way that doesn't compromise data protection and privacy rules and is quite straightforward to administer. Thanks to Merrian Lancaster and walk leaders, for information gathering, Dave Findel-Hawkins, for information handling, and to all members for cooperating on this matter.

Challenge events – we held three successful events in the reporting year – the Sundon Saunter (Nov 2018), the Chiltern Kanter (March 2019) and the Hannington Hike (June 2019). We always get feedback from entrants thanking us for our good route descriptions, great checkpoint food and friendly and supportive marshals. This hasn't happened by chance! The organisers (and other helpers) put in many hours of planning before the day and, with the marshals, work very hard on the day. Thanks to main organisers - Merrian Lancaster, Dave Findel-Hawkins, Lynn and Dave Yorston, Mike and Sandra Hyland, Norman Corrin and Alan Leadbetter, and to those who marshalled or helped in any other way, especially to those who helped for the first time - very well done.

Special thanks to Mike Hyland our 'Event Entries Manager' who deals with the entries on all our events which are now all hosted on SiEntries. Most entrants use this facility which is great for data protection and communication purposes and makes Mike's job much more straightforward.

Having organised the Chiltern Kanter for many years, Norman Corrin has now stepped down so the event in March was his last. I'm pleased to say that Roy Carter has agreed to take this event over and has already started planning the next one in 2021. Many thanks to Norman for all his work on this event over the years and to Roy for taking on the Challenge!

During the year it was agreed that the Hannington Hike will move to March and alternate with the Chiltern Kanter and the Pick and Mix will be held annually around the end of May beginning of June, taking into effect from 2020.

Other Group activities - our thanks go to Dee Brockway for organising a trip to the Isle of Wight in October. Many thanks to Jill Green and Jim Catchpole, for organising transport and leading the walks on the 74-mile

Vectis Trail. Although unable to go myself, I gather that the trip was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

LDWA 100-mile challenge event - we didn't have a Group checkpoint on this year's LDWA Hadrian Hundred but Dave Findel-Hawkins and Merrian Lancaster looked after their 'checkpoint before the end' again and several members helped here and at other Groups' checkpoints. Congratulations to all BBN members and Associates who completed the marshals or main walk and commiserations to those who had to retire. Special mention must be made of Brian Layton who completed his 20th Hundred and Dee Brockway who completed her 10th.

Thanks to Dave F-H who is the BBN contact for whichever group is organising the 100 event and to Mary Knight for organising the BBN checkpoint at Abergavenny on next year's Y 100 Sir Fynwy. We have expressed an interest in running a Group checkpoint for at least the next few years
Thanks to everybody who does a 'little job' for the Group, for example Lynn and Dave Yorston keep our equipment list up to date and store a large proportion of it, Norman Corrin who contacts all our new members by phone and email to welcome them to the Group and Merrian Lancaster who hands out LDWA leaflets and BBN cards to everyone she meets, comes up with good ideas often gleaned from talking to other Groups around the county and who looks after our historic challenge event records and makes sure these comply with data protection and privacy rules.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who has taken an active part in the Group this year by turning up on walks, entering challenge events and by coming to the AGM.

There were no questions arising from Terry's report.

(b) Secretary – Peter Simon

BBN news updates are sent every week except when there is no news to report. There was some news in all but eight weeks over the last twelve months.

There were 734 recipients as of 12/11/2019. The corresponding number for the same week in 2018 was 697. The number of recipients is expected to continue to climb until January as new members join, and subsequently to fall as non-renewals are deleted from the mailing list.

12 extra copies of each Strider are received from national LDWA. These are distributed to Committee members at each Committee meeting. They have discretion to place them wherever they see fit.

Received and responded to emails.

Few phone enquiries.

Unwanted e-mails are increasingly rare - spam filters and unsubscribing seem to be working.

I have been in touch with Adam Dawson, Internet Secretary for the NEC, concerning legitimate correspondence from ldwa.org.uk that some Internet Service Providers are automatically sending to junk or spam mail folders (including my own). No solution has yet been found. If members have not been receiving such e-mails but think that they should be, please check your spam filters. Please be patient.

There were no questions arising from Peter's report.

(c) Treasurer and Proposal to Accept Accounts – Peter Engledow

1. The Accounts have been prepared for 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018. Total balance on bank has risen from £6924.65 to £8373.09 during the 12 month period.
2. The accounts have been checked and found to be in order. They will be signed if approved by the AGM.
3. SiEentries 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;
 - Yorkshire 3 Peaks £84
 - St Dunstans PCC £25 x 2
5. Minor costs under Miscellaneous were;
 - Bench costs £43
 - Davies Plaque £39.99

6. All events during the year were run at a surplus and any additional fee received from non-members is to be gifted to LDWA centre.
7. Given the healthy state of our bank balance I do not feel that it is necessary to reintroduce the annual membership fee.
8. As always, suggestions for how we use our funds are always welcome by the committee.
9. Unless there are any questions, we now need a motion passed to accept the accounts so that they may be signed off.

**BEDS BUCKS AND NORTHANTS GROUP LDWA
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
1ST OCTOBER 2018 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2019**

INCOME	2019	2018
MEMBERSHIP		£7.00
MERCHANDISE	£160.20	£25.00
MISCELLANEOUS	£235.00	£330.00
SS17		£1503.92
PICK N MIX 18		£1218.63
HH18		£944.95
SS18		£796.80
SS19	£939.80	
HH19	£1149.48	
KANTER 19	£1354.24	
TOTAL	£5961.02	£4826.98
EXPENDITURE	2019	2018
PRINT & POST	£91.30	£207.90
MERCHANDISE		£466.80
EQUIPMENT		£302.75
DONATIONS	£154.00	£310.00
AGM	£330.00	£210.00
MISCELLANEOUS	£137.99	£173.24
CHRISTMAS WALK		£23.50
PICK N MIX 18	£47.34	£537.14
SS17		£1663.66
HH18		£1205.41
KANTER 19	£1314.37	£50.00
HH19	£888.86	
SS18	£1548.72	
TOTAL	£4512.58	£5150.40

SURPLUS FOR YEAR **£1448.44**

Peter clarified item 5: Minor costs under Miscellaneous: Bench costs £43:
This was the cost of the memorial plaque for John Nickerson, not the bench.
There were no questions arising from Peter's report.

Proposal to Accept the Accounts

It was proposed and seconded, that the Accounts should be accepted and this was agreed unanimously.
Prop: Alan Leadbetter Sec: Merrian Lancaster
Peter confirmed he would arrange for the Accounts to be signed.

(d) Social Walks Secretary – Mary Knight

We would like to thank the following walk leaders who have led social walks during the period October 2017 to September 2018. We thank them for their time, expertise and effort and without whom we would not exist.

Therese Jamin	Wayne Rowlett	Mick Smith	Linda Marsh
Dee Brockway	David Findel-Hawkins	Gill Bunker	Graham Dolby
Norman Corrin	Santa	Terry Brown	Geoff Hancock
Phil Hastings	Roy Carter	Sara Waldron	Geoff Curnock
Eric Cartwright	Peter Simon	Colin Stoneman	Jim Robinson
Dave Sedgley	Anne Addison	Bob Safford	Dave Yorston
Christine Bramley	Roger & Margaret Skerman		

There were no questions arising from Mary's report.

(e) Membership – Dave Findel-Hawkins

I regularly (normally at beginning of each month) supply Norman Corrin with details of any new BBN Primary members so he can welcome them to the group. 23 families and 38 individual have been contacted this reporting year.
Since the last AGM we have collected a register of who is on the walk, as required by the LDWA insurers. Initially these were stored in a file on the picture gallery on the BBN pages of LDWA website. They can now be stored on the walk details entry on the BBN pages of the LDWA website and this is now the way we store the registers. Thanks to everyone who assists in taking these registers.

Membership at end of September: 444 Primary members
377 Associate members

There were no questions arising from Dave's report.

New Members Welcome - Norman Corrin

After I receive the list from Dave I phone the new members and welcome them to the LDWA and the group. If after 2 phone calls there's no answer I'll email them with a welcome note about the group and information about next of kin contacts in case of emergencies
I'll find out how much walking they've done previously. Sometimes they've been out with the group on a Thursday walk and Dave has given them all the spiel anyway.
A lot are runners who've joined because they've found out what good value our events are in comparison to other running events. Occasionally the member is not interested in challenge events, social walks but long-distance paths for which the website is a gold mine.
I've always believed that with new members a welcoming phone call is enough to remind them to get their boots on and walk.

(f) Merchandise

Peter Simon said the Merchandise page on the BBN website with instructions on how to order branded garments from PECO needs to be improved. Norman and Gill had both looked at the page and agree it needs to be updated.

(g) Equipment – Lynn Yorston

Lynn said that all runs smoothly, as long as she and Dave were given enough time to get the requested equipment sorted and then the equipment is returned to them in a clean and tidy state, with the correct number of the various items used.

(h) Website – Gill Bunker

- Photos and links added after majority of group walks and events; thank you especially to Merrian and Dave F-H for photos and maps of Thursday walks.

- Information, route descriptions and results added as requested by BBN challenge event organisers.
- News kept up to date, including updated information about group walks and advertising *pop ups*.
- Terry and I share the input of group walks onto the LDWA website and this is working well.

Facebook

- 179 members
- Norman, Daniel Jamin and myself are Admins and Moderators
- FB used a lot to share photos – I post links to photos on the BBN website. Members upload their own photos. Let's have more of those!
- Again a useful tool for circulating updated/urgent information. Good to get reactions and conversations going, as with photographs during the recent Isle of Wight trip.

Twitter 150 followers, PeterE tweets regularly.

Gill said there were a lot of good comments and photos on FB after our BBN events.

PeterE confirmed he tweets as regularly as possible. Twitter is good way of getting information out to people.

(i) Newsletter – Gill Bunker

- Three Newsletters per year – Spring (Feb), Summer (June), Autumn (October)
- Good and varied supply of articles from members – a great response from contributors. Thank you all.
- 20 hard copies are posted out to members who have requested one. PeterS includes a link to the Newsletter in his Tuesday news update as soon as it is available.

(j) Local Groups Representative – Peter Simon

Meeting 15th/17th November 2019: See report pp.10-13.

Peter confirmed the two main points of discussion:

- Issue of distribution of surplus after a Hundred.
- How funds are to be raised for the redesign of the LDWA website – David Morgan, LDWA Chair, had prepared a paper illustrating the issues.

BBN's agenda item – how to encourage more people to volunteer as walk leaders – had been discussed.

Julie Cribb will post the minutes of the meeting on the main LDWA Website. Members will be informed via the normal BBN news update once this has been posted.

Terry confirmed they will then be discussed at the next committee meeting.

There were no questions arising from Peter's report.

4. Election of Officers and Committee

(a) Chair Terry Brown:

Peter Simon took the chair for the election of the Chair

Terry Brown having previously been nominated, and with no further nominations, was elected Chair. .

Position	Nominee	Name of proposer	Name of seconder
Chair	Terry Brown	Norman Corrin	Linda Marsh

(b) Secretary and (c) Treasurer: Peter Simon and Peter Engledow

Peter Simon and Peter Engledow having previously been nominated, and with no further nominations, were elected Secretary and Treasurer.

Position	Nominee	Name of proposer	Name of seconder
Secretary	Peter Simon	Steve Clark	Jim Morrison
Treasurer	Peter Engledow	Christine Bramley	Linda Dawes

(d) Election of Committee Members Gill Bunker, Dave Findel-Hawkins, Mary Knight, Alan Leadbetter, Roy Carter, Sara Waldron + 1 vacancy.

Six nominations for Committee positions had been made before the meeting. This left one position vacant.

Norman Corrin was nominated and seconded at the meeting.

The following were then duly elected:

Position	Nominee	Name of proposer	Name of seconder
Committee Member	Mary Knight	Linda Marsh	Merrian Lancaster

Committee Member	David Findel-Hawkins	Mike Bowley	Beryl Bowley
Committee Member	Roy Carter	Chris Grundy	Margaret Skerman
Committee Member	Gill Bunker	Rachel Martin	Victoria Martin
Committee Member	Alan Leadbetter	Mary Knight	Gill Bunker
Committee Member	Sara Waldron	Dee Brockway	Roger Skerman
Committee Member	Norman Corrin	Gill Bunker	Dave Findel-Hawkins

(e) Appointment of Committee Members to specific roles

Terry said Dave and Mary had agreed to continue in their roles of Membership and Walks Secretary respectively.

Non-committee: Lynn and Dave Yorston agreed to continue looking after the equipment.

(f) Cheque Signatories: Peter Engledow, Terry Brown, Gill Bunker (unchanged)

5. Health and Safety/Insurance Issues - Peter Simon

Incident Reports: There have been no reportable incidents.

Peter wanted to highlight one issue of LDWA insurance cover. A recce for a walk is covered by the LDWA insurance but there is currently a grey area where a member is checking out a short section of a walk whilst going about their own business.

6. Donations/Projects – Update

(a) BBN Greensand Ridge Walk Benches – Roy Carter

Roy confirmed BBN are in contact with the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership with a view to refreshing/replacing the BBN benches on the Greensand Ridge.

(b) Marshals' T-shirts – Terry Brown

Terry said BBN marshals t-shirts are being obtained, she has been in contact with the designer of the Norfolk Suffolk t-shirts and we are close to a final decision on the design.

(c) Banners for use at BBN challenge events are also being ordered.

(d) Any other ideas? None

7. BBN Challenge Events

(a) Reports of Completed Events (1/10/18 to 30/9/19)

(i) Sundon Saunter 2018 – Merrian Lancaster - Report attached pp 14-16.

(ii) Chiltern Kanter 2019 – Norman Corrin - Report attached pp 16-17.

(iii) Hannington Hike 2019 - Alan Leadbetter - Report attached p.18.

(b) Future Events Update

(i) Hannington Hike 2020 – Alan Leadbetter

Next year's event will be held on Sunday 1st March 2020. Same routes. The marshals' walk will be on Sunday 2nd February 2020. Entries are now open and will close Wednesday 26th February 2020. Marshals will be needed. If you would like to help out on the event then let me know by email at acleadbetter64@gmail.com

(ii) Pick & Mix 2020 - Lynn Yorston

The P&M will be held on Sunday 31st May 2020. The school is booked and we will soon start checking the routes. We are well aware of the disruption that HS2 could cause but we have alternative plans in hand. There are three routes that could be affected by path closures but our Parish Council are able to give us advance notice in time to change things. Entries go live on 1st January 2020 and we have a limit of 250. Nearer the date we will send out a request for helpers,

(iii) Shillington Shuffle 2020 – Merrian Lancaster

- The SS will take place on Sunday 15th November.
- No changes to the routes.
- Mike, Dave Y, DFH and myself will continue on the organising team. Lynn is stepping away from the organising team so we'll need someone to take charge of the catering and booking the halls. Lynn will be giving me copies of all her paperwork, hall contacts, menus and shopping lists.
- We are meeting next Tuesday for a de-brief of the Steppingley Step.

(iv) Chiltern Kanter 2021 - Roy Carter

The CK will take place on 7th March 2021. Pitstone Village Hall has been booked. The routes remain to be sorted. Roy is liaising with Norman, the previous organiser.

Terry thanked all BBN challenge walk organisers for the great events they have organised, and also thanked everyone who has contributed in any way to their success.

8. LDWA Hundreds

(a) Y 100 Sir Fynwy 2020 – Mary Knight

Mary confirmed there are 15 volunteers at the moment. She now has information regarding access to the hall and will be emailing details to everyone who has offered to help. She probably has enough helpers for this CP, but if anyone else wants to help let her know or contact the organisers direct to assist elsewhere during the event.

(b) Trans Pennine 2021 – Dave Findel-Hawkins (liaison with organisers)

BBN will run CP 2, Penistone Village Hall at 11 miles.

(c) Elephant, Bear & Bull 2022 - Dave Findel-Hawkins (liaison with organisers)

BBN will run CP1, Coventry, a speedy “splash and dash” CP.

(d) Speyside 2023 - Dave Findel-Hawkins (liaison with organisers)

Dave asked, in view of the distance, do BBN want a CP? In a show of hands 9 people expressed interest. Dave will see which CPs are available.

9. Group Activities — Weekends — Social Events

(a) Isle of Wight 2019 - Dee Brockway

Dee said all had enjoyed the IoW trip and it had worked well. Terry thanked Dee for organising the trip (round of applause). BBN have sent a thank you to Jill Green and Jim Catchpole.

(b) Marsden Moors 2020 - Mary Knight

Mary explained the idea of this weekend was for walkers who do not normally enter challenge walks or may not have walked in another part of the country to join together for this event: the Marsden Moors (near Huddersfield) on Saturday 9th May (the new Bank Holiday weekend), 18 or 23 miles.

Dave Findel Hawkins will lead a 10 mile walk on the Sunday.

Everybody to enter the event individually and to book their own accommodation.

Mary said that in order to make this idea work we needed to know whether members would be interested in this format. A show of hands indicated 5 of those present were interested, two have already entered.

(c) Midsummer Meanders June 2020 - Sara Waldron

Sara said this is a social walks day for members, family and friends to be held on Saturday 20th June at Milton Bryan, close to Woburn. There will be a couple of walks in the morning and afternoon of shorter and longer distances, with tea and biscuits at the start, lunch at the hall and tea and cake at the finish.

Hopefully a nice social day for all to enjoy.

(d) Grindleford Weekend 2020 - Roy Carter

Roy said he was planning a weekend similar to the Hartington weekend last year, this time in the Grindleford/Calver/Froggatt Edge area. He is thinking of the August Bank Holiday weekend. There was a good show of hands in support. Dee suggested it would be a good idea for everyone to stay in the same place. Roy said he did know of a hotel in the area that might be suitable. He will report back.

(e) Death March, Belgium, August 2020 - Norman Corrin

Norman said to date 10 people have expressed interest. The trip is open to all LDWA members. Travel Thursday 13th August, return Sunday 16th August. Norman will organise coach transport.

(e) Any other ideas for future group activities - None

10. A.O.B.

(a) Possible Triple Challenge of Pick & Mix, Chiltern Kanter, Hannington Hike – Norman Corrin

The idea being to encourage people to enter the events.
To be discussed at the next committee meeting.

(b) Lost Property – Merrian Lancaster

Merrian had brought various items of lost property that she has accumulated after BBN events. She suggested people take anything they want and put some money in the next charity box they see.

(c) Greensand Country Landscape Partnership – David Sedgley

David said a few words about the work of the GCLP.

11. Date of next AGM meeting

It was agreed the 2020 AGM will be held on Sunday 29th November in South Buckinghamshire.
Lynn and Dave Yorston will check out venues in the Prestwood/Naphill area.

Terry said the next committee meeting will take place on Thursday 30th January – please contact any committee member with any questions, idea, etc that can be discussed at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 3.55 pm

LDWA BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS: AGM 2019

Item 3(j) Local Groups Representative Report – Peter Simon

The annual local groups representatives' weekend took place this year at YHA Sherwood Forest, Edwinstowe, Notts on 15-17 November. There were three substantive sessions on the Friday and Saturday evenings and the Sunday morning.

The Friday session centred around the issue of whether Hundred organisers should reimburse the travel expenses of checkpoint personnel. The consensus view appeared to me to be that reimbursement ought to be considered on a case-by-case basis. If the organising committee has a surplus at the end - and some have not in recent years - then the disbursement of the surplus is entirely at their discretion.

The Saturday session concerned the issue of how to finance a rebuild of the LDWA Website that will be needed in the next five years. David Morgan of the NEC has prepared a detailed note on the issue, which is presented below as Appendix A.

The Sunday session covered mainly topics suggested in advance by local groups or their representatives regarding policy on many of the issues that concern them. The agenda for the session is presented below as Appendix B.

The BBN contribution to the agenda was item 10a, on attracting more volunteers to lead social walks. As with most of the others topics, there was no firm answer as to what works and what does not. The main suggestions concerned how to deal with members who are willing to volunteer but are insufficiently confident in their ability to plan and lead a walk. It was suggested that experienced leaders provide one-on-one assistance at all stages of the development of the walk. There were no useful suggestions on how to deal with regular members who are confident in their ability to lead but choose not to.

I expect eventually to receive an information pack on the weekend containing full minutes and more. The relevant bits will then be posted on the website and members will be informed.

Appendix A

Local Group Reps' Weekend: IT Funding Workshop Summary – 16.11.19

During the evening of 16.11.19, the second of two workshops relating to the long term funding of IT provisions for the Long Distance Walkers Association was held. Delegates were asked to consider the following topics listed under Revenue Streams and Cost Savings.

- Strider Magazine
- NEC Costs
- Lottery & Other Grants
- Challenge Event Levy
- Local Group Donations
- Bequests
- Subscription Increase
- Special LDWA Events
- Amazon Commission
- Adverts

Whilst many observations were made, this document summarises key discussions where it is believed that funds can be raised significantly over a five year period and are therefore worthy of serious consideration and therefore further scoping.

1. Strider Magazine

In 2018 / 19 the total cost to produce and post Strider was £51,072 with the printing costing £33,487.

It was suggested that the contract with the current publisher should be reviewed to see if costs savings can be made.

It was also suggested that many members would be happy to read Strider electronically and if they therefore opted out of receiving a hard copy, could contribute to cost savings.

Work by NEC together with a LDWA member with experience of renegotiating contracts to determine best approach.

2. Local Group Donations

Several geographical groups in the LDWA have large reserves. Feedback at the workshop indicated that some groups recognise that the reserves they hold are far greater than they ought to be but are unclear on what they could / should do with the reserves accrued. During the conversation, it was suggested that groups should have a reserve that matches the group's required annual turnover. Furthermore local groups might be encouraged on a voluntary basis to donate a sum to the NEC to be added to the IT fund.

3. Adverts

It was recognised that there is limited scope for a substantial income via Strider magazine. However, with certain LDWA pages receiving high numbers of daily hits, namely the Long Distance Paths section, work should progress to identify if advertising on the website would be viable. One caveat was that adverts should only be added if the current website could be updated cheaply or easily to accommodate the adverts.

4. Challenge Walk Levy

Considerable time was spent on this subject. The NEC believes that this is the key to long term sustainable fund raising. Tony Willey presented to the delegates. Lakeland LDWA has created a process where they identify what fee to charge entrants. This fee is set for LDWA members. Non-members are charged 50% more.

E.G. Member £8 / Non-Member £12

The additional income (£4 in this example) is accumulated and will be transferred to the NEC IT Funding account.

For the Lakeland LDWA 'That's Lyth' event alone, £860 has been accumulated and will be transferred to NEC IT Funding account.

A long debate took place with regards to how this would work for other groups as in some cases entry fees for members and non-members are significantly different in order to encourage people to join the LDWA. Representatives promised to return to their groups in order to establish if they would support the fund raising process and would report back to the NEC by 31.01.20. It was recognised that some local groups were not represented at the meeting and they would receive visits from NEC members to outline the challenge facing the LDWA and to seek their 'buy-in' if support was obtained by 31.01.20.

The Chair outlined that if the consensus was that as an association this was something that should be introduced, that it would be unethical for groups who do hold challenge events to not participate in the scheme.

5. Special LDWA Events

It was recognised that special LDWA challenge events might be attractive to members. However, it was highlighted that the events needed to be truly special.

Suggestions included having a 'triple' challenge as a one-off fund raising process with all profits being transferred to the NEC IT Funding account.

6. Charging Non-LDWA Groups To Advertise

During the discussion it was suggested that several non-LDWA events are advertised on the LDWA website as well as the Strider magazine. The adverts are free and do not take the cost of events into account. It was suggested that some of the non-LDWA events are very expensive compared to LDWA events and the organisations should be charged an admin fee to advertise. This fee would be added to the NEC IT Funding account.

7. Subscription Increase

It was recognised during the discussion that 13 years of not raising subscription fees had actually caused the LDWA issues. Last year when the subs were increased by £2, several people left the LDWA. Any rise would need to take into account that members will leave. In addition, a £1 increase would only raise roughly £10,000 for one year.

8. LDWA – Charitable Status

It was highlighted that if the LDWA became a charity, it could raise an additional 25% as tax could be reclaimed. A discussion confirmed the LDWA had considered becoming a charity in the past but had decided to become a limited company by guarantee due to there being less constraints being placed on the association.

Enquiries will be made by the NEC to identify the exact details of what was considered.

9. Crowd Funding

It was suggested that the LDWA might wish to explore the prospect of Crowd Funding. To be explored by NEC.

10. Bequests

A very, very sensitive subject. NEC outlined that an article about Neville Mitton's bequest had been placed in Strider. The NEC has gently raised the topic and received positive feedback from some members. This is not an area with a guaranteed income and so could never be relied upon.

11. NEC Costs

It costs on average, £2000 to hold a NEC committee meeting. Some savings might be made if meetings were held by Skype. There are benefits to meeting face to face and the meetings would continue, but if one meeting a year could be held by Skype, in five years £10,000 will have been saved. For further consideration by the NEC.

David Morgan

Chair

17.11.19

Appendix B

Local Group Representatives' weekend Sunday 17 November 2019

Agenda Formal meeting 09.30-12.45

1. Welcome and Apologies

2. Actions from the last meeting

3. Governance matters

- a. GDPR and Photographs
- b. GDPR and forwarding e-mails from outside LDWA
- c. Dogs on walks policy wording

4. Finance and insurance

- a. Long Term Strategic Funding
- b. Insurance and Walk Registers
- c. Filing the Walk Registers
- d. Under 18s on walks

5. IT

- a. LDWA Bulk Emails and Spam
- b. Toolkit progress

6. LDWA 100s

- a. Planning for forthcoming 100s
- b. Support for Local Groups supporting 100s

7. Marketing and Publicity

8. Events

- a. Standard set of terms and conditions for Challenge Events
- b. Planning for No-Shows at events
- c. Members only windows for entering Challenge Events
- d. Balancing runners and walkers at Challenge Events
- e. First Aid cover on Challenge Events
- f. Marshals' walks - Social or individual?

9. Membership

- a. Why do members not re-join

10. Local Group Matters

- a. Getting volunteers

- b. Communicating with members and others
- c. Social or Group Walks - Pace, distance
- d. Identifying LDWA members
- e. Improving communication between LGs and NEC
- f. Communications between LGs

11. National initiatives (Creating central resources or agreements that LGs can have benefit from)

- a. Updating LG banners with new Ingo - Single supplier, consistency, financial support?
- b. Emergency telephone coverage in rural areas. Work with Ramblers, Mountain Rescue etc.
- c. Sets of PACER equipment that can be hired or loaned out to LGs
- d. Multiuser licence to a recognised supplier for creating maps and route marking for challenge events

12. Strider

- a. Dates for walks submissions
- b. Social walks in Strider - content
- c. Using colour in walk entries to highlight exceptions

13. Project 50

14. AOCB

- a. Beach of Dreams

15. Date and Venue for LGW 2020

- a. Friday 13th - Sunday 15th November 2020
- b. Venue tbc

16. Evaluation Sheets

17. Claim Forms

18. Thanks and close

LDWA BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS: AGM 2019

Item 7: BBN Challenge Events (a) Reports of Completed Events

(i) Sundon Saunter – Sunday 18th November 2018 – Merrian Lancaster

Rocky start to the day when DFH's car, containing all the paperwork and some of the equipment, broke down just before the motorway. Thanks to Graham Missing for rescuing M and some of the stuff. Thanks to Lynn for calmly sorting out Alan to rescue Dave and the rest of the stuff. It was a broken cambelt fly wheel.

Route:

27 mile route: Some slight changes around Sundon & Fancott due to change of CP.

Slight change at Tebworth due to not using pub as CP. Main change (due to using Milton Bryan VH as CP) meant we did whole length of Battlesden Avenue, then went into Woburn Park at Paris House entrance. So we did about a mile more in the park. Route from Eversholt to Harlington as previous.

18 mile route: Due to change to Fancott CP route from Toddington was along the Monmouth Way - joining the 27 route much earlier than it did - with some glorious views (& less X-field path than previously).

12 mile route: Due to losing Sundon as CP we had to use Harlington - which meant split was 8 miles before CP & 4.3m after. Route was changed after Sundon Hills to include more of village & less of the quarry.

All routes

The route was changed through last part of Sundon Hills to include the steps on north edge.

The route after Harlington was changed to go past Bunyan's Oak & north before rejoining the old route. This (as well as being more interesting) eliminated what is usually a very muddy path below Harlington.

Entries:

338 entries, 299 active, 27 cancelled, 11 waiting list (no invitation)

Entry rate - this section shows the rate at which people made an entry.

Month	No. of Entries	% of Entries
Jun 18	48	14.7
Jul 18	20	6.1
Aug 18	46	14.1
Sep 18	94	28.7
Oct 18	99	30.3
Nov 18	20	6.1
Total	327	

Entry source - this section shows where the people who made an entry came from before they arrived at SiEntries.

Source	No. of Entries	% of Entries
This Event Link	8	2.4
Links from Another Site	10	3.0
SiEntries Website	300	89.0
SiEntries Events Email	7	2.1
Administrator Entries	12	3.6
Total	337	

Event page views - this section shows where the people who have viewed our event page came from before they arrived at SiEntries.

Source	No. of Views	% of Views
This Event Link	559	22.7
Other Event Links	5	0.2
Links from Another Site	77	3.1
SiEntries Website	1519	61.8
SiEntries Events Email	98	4.0
SiEntries Twitter Feed	182	7.4
Administrator Entries	18	0.7
Total	2458	

Menu:

We simplified the menus this year to fit with the rotation of checkpoints. Fewer sandwiches / wraps but still good wholesome munchings. The end of walk meal was again soup and French bread, then a pudding of mixed fruits which seems to be very popular. We must have calculated correctly how hungry people would be as there was almost nothing left over.

Tracking:

2 people with the same name. Nothing unusual in that, but they're both runners, both from the same town, both doing the same distance, both middle name starts A. Hard to differentiate between them.

Despite all the conditions included in the entry details several people turned up on the day, either claiming to have entered, asking to enter or asking to take someone else's place. We told them all that we couldn't stop them going round but that they couldn't, in any way, participate in the event.

Several people didn't bring a route description. We told them to buddy up with someone who did have one.

When Duncan Gedge had missed two checkpoints, we contacted his wife who assured us there couldn't be a problem and gave us permission to ignore him. Alan, who was still waiting at CP1, was able to return to HQ. The other checkpoints were told not to expect him. When Duncan finished, he explained that he'd downloaded the wrong route description to his 'phone. He couldn't let us know because he didn't have a Sim card in his 'phone. We should have given him a right-old telling off but were so relieved he'd turned up. He should have made more effort to contact us, even if he'd had to ask a member of the public to help. We worked out he'd done the Step Step route. To try to prevent this happening again (fat chance) details from previous events have now been moved to the Event Archive.

4 people lost their tallies. Only 8 certificates weren't collected.

Entries	Expected	Non-starters	Starters	Retired	Finished
12 mile	37	0	37	0	37
18 mile	54	3	51	0	51
26 mile	205	17	188	6	182
overall	296	20 (6.76%)	276	6	270

S-S-S triples	Marshals	Main
1 st triple	0	27
2 nd triple	0	14

Finances:

Finances	Income		Expenditure
Entries	2216.44		
Tea donations	57.60		
Total Income	2274.04	Expenditure on walk	1206.32
		Donation to Air Ambulance	100.00
Total Expenditure	1606.32	Donation to LDWA	300.00
Surplus	667.72	Total Expenditure	1606.32

We tried to find out why people don't join the LDWA. The only reasons we can remember are that they're happy to pay the non-member supplement and that they don't want Strider because they can look up events on SiEntries. We did explain that the membership fee goes towards the cost of maintaining the website and list of entries. Given that we had a healthy surplus, we made a donation to the LDWA of the non-member supplements.

Marshals:

The Marshals' Walk took place on Sunday 28th October. 16 people did the marshals' walk on the day, or thereabouts.

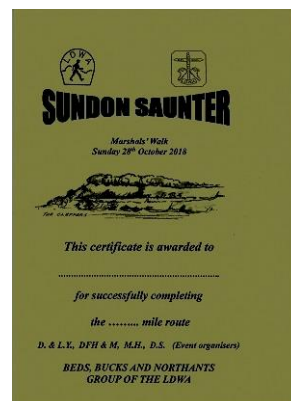
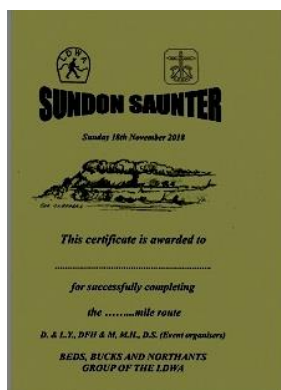
Alan Leadbetter, Alison Roberts, Derek Jacob, Gill Bunker & crew, Roger Skerman, Margaret Skerman, Gordon Shaughnessy, Mike Hyland, Sandra Hyland, Christine Burns, Terry Brown, Ian Sage, Roy Carter, Andy Carpenter, Eric Cartwright, Christine Bramley, David Yorston, Lynn Yorston, Karen Earwicker, Merrian Lancaster, David Findel-Hawkins, Graham Missing, David Sedgley, Tony Hill, Colin Rees

We would like to thank everyone who helped on the day. The whole event went very well and was fully subscribed.

Merrian Lancaster, Dave Findel-Hawkins, Lynn Yorston, Dave Yorston, Mike Hyland

Badge and certificates:

We'd run out of the first version of the badge, so re-ordered with the addition of the tractor.



(ii) Chiltern Kanter- Sunday 3rd March 2019 – Norman Corrin

A drizzly start to the day but otherwise manageable. The LDWA chairman David Morgan enjoyed the joke that Dave and Merrian came up with for Clue 2. After the furore over the logo I'm pleased that brought a smile to his face. All seemed to enjoy the day and the car parking arrangements at Pitstone Museum went well. They'd be very happy to have us back there in 2021.

Checkpoints:

Except for Wigginton Village Hall I've had the feedbacks from the caretakers at all of the checkpoints and they will be very happy for us to use their venues again in 2021

Routes

All 3 routes amended slightly from 2017. We avoided using the BBN memorial bench as a clue and replaced it with a clue outside the pub. If you can't find a walker in a village hall or sitting on a bench you'll normally find him or her in an ale house so that seemed appropriate!

Catering

I used the same menu as Mary Knight did in 2017 and that worked well. I've not had any reports of entrants suffering from malnutrition so they must have been happy. The increased number of entrants did mean that we ran out of some food stuff but I was able to make up any shortfalls from Tesco's or the local store.

One entrant was not happy about the catering as she had stated on her entry form she had a medical condition which meant she was allergic to some food. It was her first LDWA event as well..... Merrian did check her form and checked on SiEntries but the two didn't match. We think she might have confused her entry on our event with another she'd entered.

Entries:

A record pre-entry of 288 for the event. 220 actually started. The highest number since I started organising the event. Figures for entries are below:

Overall Totals			Long Route		Medium Route		Short Route	
entries	280	n/s%	161	n/s%	74	n/s%	45	n/s%
non-starters	60	21.4	39	17.7	13	17.5	8	24.2
starters	220		122		61		37	
retired	4		1		1		2	

Marshals:

The Marshals' Walk took place on Sunday 10th February. 5 people did the marshals' short route walk, Gill Bunker, John Davies, Roy Carter, Mike Hyland and me.

Alan Leadbetter and Karen did the short route previously. DFH and Merrian route checked the loop and other sections shortly afterwards. Thanks to all for their help. Who did which job is shown below. There were a few first time marshals so hope they weren't put off.

Entries & Route Designer: Mike Hyland

Start/Finish Booking In: Dave Findel-Hawkins, Merrian Lancaster, Mike Hyland, Roy Carter, Andy Carpenter

Car Parking at Pitstone Memorial Hall and Pitstone Museum: Alan Leadbetter, John Davies, Ian Sage
Gordon Shaughnessy

Checkpoint 1 Little Gaddesden Scout Hut: Dave & Lynn Yorston, Glyn Dimmock, Alan Leadbetter, John Davies, Ian Sage

Checkpoint 2 & 3 Wigginton Village Hall: Gill Bunker, Jackie Burnett, Beryl & Mike Bowley, Valerie Hayward, Sara Waldron

Meeters and Greeters at Pitstone: Glyn Dimmock, Gordon Shaughnessy, Ian Sage

Kitchen at Pitstone: Karen Earwicker, Sandra Hyland, Pat Sage, Lucy Tink, Alison Roberts

Writing Certificates: Helen Gardner

Certificate Design: Christine Pendlebury

I thanked all by email and also sent cards.

Badge and certificates: The 20th Anniversary badges went well and I still have a few left if anyone wants one.

Finances: We made a healthy surplus of £781.83.

Total Income from Entries	2146.70
Total Expenditure	<u>1364.87</u>
Surplus	781.83

Following the event it was agreed to make a donation of £100 to the North of Tyne Mountain Rescue team who assisted on this year's Hadrian Hundred.

A donation of £357 has been sent to the LDWA in respect of the supplemental entry fee levied on the non-LDWA members (119x£3) with a note saying we would like this allocated to the fund for the website redevelopment.

(iii) Hannington Hike 2019 - 9th June 2019 – Alan Leadbetter

This year's event was held a month earlier in June. The marshals' walk found a cropped field that had no sign of a footpath through it. This was reported to the relevant authority and the path was in place on the day.

Entries were a bit slow but with a rush of entries in the last two weeks there were 135 entered. 112 arrived on the day and 111 finished their chosen route.

Route	27	18	14
Entered	80	19	13
Finished	79	19	13

Of the 135 who entered 42% were non-members of the LDWA. They came from near and far.

Anytime Anywhere	7	Sherwood	1
Beds, Bucks & Northants	35	South Wales	2
Bristol & West	1	Sussex	1
Essex & Herts	11	Thames Valley	4
Heart of England	6	The Irregulars	1
Lincolnshire	2	Wessex	1
London	1	West Lancashire	1
Norfolk & Suffolk	3	Non-members	58

I would like to thank everybody who helped on the day for without their help we could not hold these events:

Karen Earwicker	Mike Hyland	Peter Simon
Norman Corrin	Sandra Hyland	Mooi Simon
Dave Yorston	Andrew Gilbertson	Steve Clark
Lynn Yorston	Terry Brown	Therese Jamin
Glynn Dimmock	Gill Bunker	Derek Jacob
Helen Crossland	Chris Burns	Gordon Shaughnessy
Sara Waldron	Ian Burns	

Accounts

SiEntries	£1,149.48	
Halls		£432.25
Food		£281.32
Certificates		£50.40
Van + petrol		£125.00
	£1,149.48	£888.97

Minus donation to LDWA (supplemental entry fee) £232 = Surplus £29.51