

**LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP**  
**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16TH MAY 2013**  
**AT 9 HOLLINWELL CLOSE, BLETCHLEY, MILTON KEYNES**

The meeting commenced at 7.57 pm.

**Present:** Gill Bunker (Newsletter), Norman Corrin, Dave Findel-Hawkins (Membership), Martin Lawson (part – due to work commitments), Merrian Lancaster (Secretary/Website/Local Groups Rep), Ian Sage (Treasurer), Nigel Schofield (Chairman), Gordon Shaughnessy (Thursday Walks), Lynn Yorston (Equipment/Merchandising)

1. **Apologies:** Dee Brockway (Social Walks)

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (25th January 2013) and Matters Arising**

**Donate a Gate:** Norman said he has heard nothing further from the Chiltern Society re the location of the gate donated by BBN. Also no further information about the **damaged Greensand Ridge Bench**. The Minutes were agreed to be a true record.

3. **Officers' Reports**

(a) **Chairman – Nigel Schofield**

We are well into our 30th Anniversary Year (Will it ever warm up enough for shorts? It did of course for the first May Bank Holiday weekend) and I hope that you have all the celebration events and dates in your 2013 diary. Please attend as many of the 30 km walks, the 30 mile walk, the brewery visit and canal cruise as you can and of course the social walks on Sundays and Thursdays.

Both the Chiltern Kanter marshals' and the event itself were held on dry days. Many thanks for the support from all marshals. The move from Bridgewater Monument to Gaddesden Scout Hut was a very smart move by Norman Corrin (no more tinned sausages please!) and on behalf of all members I would like to record our thanks to Norman and friends for another successful Kanter.

The next challenge event is the Steppingley Step on 3 November followed by Pick & Mix next March. All offers of help to Merrian and Lynn and Dave Yorston respectively please. Steppingley Step marshals' walk on 13 October 2013 and Pick and Mix marshals' walk in February 2014 (date to be confirmed).

Many congratulations to the BBNers who completed the Dorset Giant and other recent challenge walks, including the Cornwall and Devon 100 Marshals' walk (Martin, great time of 33 hours and fifty minutes, what did you have for breakfast, go faster beans or those infamous Chiltern Kanter frankfurter sausages). I retired off the Giant at about 52 miles (first ever retirement on an LDWA Challenge Event) due to the leaning over syndrome – Merrian has given me some excellent tips with tlc and if any one has any comments as to cause of lean over and resolution please let me know.

Your new Committee is settling down to the essential 'bits and pieces' of looking after BBN. We are always ready to receive comments and or questions – don't hide behind the sofa – we are not the daleks or cybermen!

BBN will be in charge of Checkpoint 3 on the Cornwall and Devon 100 and even at this late stage if you are able to marshal please let Norman know. I wish good luck to all BBN entrants – **including myself** on the Camel – Teign 100.

And if you have not heard or read about it, a person or persons unknown have defaced the 100 route (as well as part of the Dorset Giant route) by the application of yellow paint to stones, stiles, walls, telegraph poles. This is a very serious development and cannot be tolerated. This activity which I suspect is the work of a very few people (one only?) must reflect very badly on the LDWA. John Sparshatt (LDWA Chairman) has sent out a global email and posts on the LDWA Forum have made it clear that ex-communication of the culprit/s is the only solution. There was a stunned silence at the announcement just before the start of the Giant and for the first ten to fifteen minutes none of us could understand why anyone in the LDWA would undertake such an act. Anyone on an overnight walk - we all help novices - would not resort to such

an act, the challenge is to read and navigate and complete – remember Challenge Events are not a race, although we are all aware that to some it is a race or is competitive.

Your Committee and others work tirelessly on your behalf to organise events and arrange a very full social walks programme on Sundays and Thursdays. Dee and Gordon will always love to hear from you to propose a walk.

I hope that you all have good walking this spring and summer and stay healthy.

Please think what you could do for BBN and not necessarily what BBN can do for you and don't forget 'to have a great day out on a walk with BBN'.

And last but probably not least I propose to stand down as BBN Chairman at the 2013 AGM after seven years as your Chairman.

That's all folks.

It was confirmed there had been no further developments regarding the yellow paint markings on the Hundred/Dorset Giant – but Dave commented that in the week between walking out the Hundred and the marshals' event the paint appeared to be rapidly fading.

**(b) Secretary – Merrian Lancaster**

- 15 April Striders distributed. 4 spare which I'll pass (via John Sparshatt at Camel-Teign) to LDWA membership secretary who is very short of copies.
- Received and responded to emails.
- Regular news updates put on website and link emailed to members. It's easier for me to use the web because I can build up the info before releasing it.
- Dogs on walks – all LDWA members advised of policy. Still waiting for contact details for insurers.
- Still outstanding:
  - (i) Michael Mooney's health and safety doc – send to National Exec
  - (ii) Campaign for national parks
  - (iii) BBN photo for emails
  - (iv) Handover notes
  - (v) BBN business cards – with Norman
  - (vi) Plastic plates
  - (vii) PAT cert for netbook and printer – probably ask my neighbour to do it nearer Step Step
  - (viii) Wicking tops – should be able to get them for £10 each
  - (ix) Electronic version of our logo - Simon Leck (LDWA internet officer). Would be good to use on the business cards.
- 30 mile walk – Chris says – “No problem all sorted, route walked a few times. Can you ask if the club would like another weekend on the North Norfolk coast, March/April 2014? Hotels or bunk house accommodation?”
- Brewery walk - John says – “Only 13 promised. Received deposit from 12. Brewery is happy with the numbers.”
- Attended LDWA AGM – proceedings dominated by a few.

**Website**

- Added lots of photos to website. Still mainly from Thursday walks.
- We're heavily reliant on website to communicate to members. I suggest that those who don't have access buddy-up with someone who'd be willing to pass on important info – like late changes to walk details.
- Backup for updating BBN website – need to arrange a session with Gill and Norman.

### Local Groups Representative

LGR meeting will be held at Wilderhope Manor YHA, Much Wenlock, 15th-17th November 2013. This is open to any representative of a local group and after a LDWA subsidy is £37.50 for each delegate - essentially covering all meals and a picnic lunch (Saturday) from Friday's dinner to Sunday's lunch. Meeting Sunday morning, walk on Saturday plus informal sessions on Internet updates etc. I've booked a room, though might stay in van.

### BBN AGM

Sunday 24th November. Start 0900 from Emerson Valley Local Centre. Lunch at The Clocktower, 1230, booked for 20, need to confirm numbers nearer the day. AGM in River Valley Community Centre at 1400 (access at 1330 for those who have packed lunch). Booked until 1630. Cost £21. Need to take copy of LDWA Public Liability. Details in next newsletter.

I'd like to circulate reports from all officers beforehand, and just call for questions at the meeting.

Arising from Merrian's report:

Chris Bent: North Norfolk coast weekend, March/April 2014 – this was agreed.

Plastic re-usable plates: Lynn has various Tupperware stored which Merrian can look at to see if suitable.

### (c) Treasurer – Ian Sage

Ian reported group funds as follows:

NatWest Accounts:

Balance as at 30/09/2012 (start of financial year)	
Current	£2439.48
Business Reserve	<u>£4000.07</u>
Total	£6439.55

Balance as at 10/05/2013

Current	£2978.97
Business Reserve	<u>£4000.49</u>
Total	<u>£6979.46</u>

Not included in this total - at the meeting Ian received:

£89 membership subs from Dave.

£14 merchandise sales at the Chiltern Kanter.

Chiltern Kanter monies from Norman – Ian will reconcile the CK account.

£200 approx is due to Lynn for badges.

£16 expenses claim from Gill.

A deposit of £105 had been paid for the Brewery Trip – Ian is expecting to get some of this back. He will contact John Davies.

It was agreed that Merrian would become a cheque signatory and the Resolution required by the NatWest to amend the mandate was passed:

*It was resolved that the **Authorised Signatories** in the current Mandate, for the Accounts detailed in Section 2, be changed in accordance with Section 5, and the current Mandate will continue as amended.*

Prop: Nigel Schofield Sec: Martin Lawson. and passed unanimously.

Ian commented that as some members were paying for more than one year's membership there would be an increase in membership income this year, with a corresponding drop next year. As membership fees form only a small part of our income this won't have too much effect on group funds.

### (d) Membership – Dave Findel-Hawkins

We have 146 currently paid up members including our five free members. Sixty have paid for multiple years.

We have nine 'new' members since the last meeting.

I've been informed by seven they will not be renewing this year.

There are 21 members who have yet to pay for 2013. I have emailed 17 of these and of these and I have 4 who have promised to pay next time they see me. I've not heard anything from the others. Eight are no longer LDWA members so I do not expect them to renew. There are four who don't have email so will get a final reminder in the next Newsletter.

Dave said that the majority who had paid for more than one year had paid for 5 years. He confirmed total membership for last year was 156, but he expects to gain more new members by the end of the current year.

**(e) Social Walks – Dee Brockway**

Dee was not present but had sent her report:

I am so sorry, due to work commitments, I yet again have been forced to miss this committee meeting. The fantastic programme we can now start to enjoy, right to the end of our 30th Anniversary year, will, I hope, help you to excuse me.

Following on from the special summer walks and events.....Brewery Trip, boat trip with meal on board, three 30km walks, one in each of our counties, a 30 miler..... to name but a few.... We now have even more exciting and diverse things on offer, to see out our special anniversary year. These include 2 x two-day weekends spent walking our local 80 mile Bunyan trail and a 3 day long weekend enjoying the Milton Keynes Boundary walk. Add to this our usual challenge event, The Steppingley Step, the AGM meal and walk and Santa's festive appearance, the September to December programme is very full and extremely varied. Would you believe there are only 3 weekends during these 4 months, when BBN is not offering you a chance to enjoy your walking, in one form or another, with the group?

Thanks to Gordon for co-ordinating the Thursday programme and to Gill and Merrian for proof reading and, I am sure, correcting my silly mistakes, and for inputting the information onto the web, from which the information will be extracted for inclusion in Strider.

As always, I am now starting on the programme January to April 2014, Please contact me asap to book a date to lead the walk, with the usual final details required by 10th September please.

**Thursday Walks – Gordon Shaughnessy**

Gordon confirmed the new Thursday programme was complete and was with Dee. He was pleased to say that there is a walk every two weeks for the next four months. Numbers out on Thursdays are good, with an average of 18-21.

**(f) Merchandising/Equipment – Lynn Yorston**

Merchandise

We have given Ian a cheque for £14.00 following sales at the Chiltern Kanter. Merrian is looking into 'wicking T-shirts'. Logo mugs are still on hold.

Equipment

Don't forget the tabards and aprons with our logo printed on are available for checkpoint duties. The up-to-date list of equipment is now on the website.

**(g) Website – Merrian Lancaster**

Already covered in Merrian's Secretary's report.

Merrian said she was using the website to put up information. Ian complimented Merrian on this and said it really worked. It was agreed that members don't read everything, but they can now simply click on items they are interested in. Merrian said she had debated whether to include non-LDWA information in the updates, but had decided to include things she thought relevant under a "non-LDWA" heading.

Late/important information is also being sent via email with a link to the relevant information, and also using the stop press facility on the website. Merrian wants to encourage those without internet access to "buddy up" with someone who can pass on any such information.

**(h) Newsletter – Gill Bunker**

Gill said the deadline for the next Newsletter is 4th June. She will include all officers' reports. She hopes to make the October issue a 30th anniversary special.

(i) **Local Group Representative – Merrian Lancaster**  
Already covered in Merrian’s Secretary’s report.

(j) **Other Committee Members**

Norman Corrin:

**New Members/ Enquiries from Public**

I’ve received notification from Dave of 16 new LDWA members who live within our group’s area. I’ve contacted and emailed information packs to 12. There are 4 still to contact but I’ve been busy with the 100 checkpoint.

**LDWA Business Cards**

Below are examples of LDWA Business Cards which we could use instead of LDWA membership forms  
These were amended from the template provided by Essex Herts. I’ve emailed the company for a quote but not received a reply yet

**Long Distance Walkers Association  
Beds Bucks and Northants Group**  
aim: to further the interests of those who enjoy long distance walking

---



**Challenge yourself** to walk a bit further...

- [Take part in Challenge Events](#)
- [Walk with your Local Group](#)
- [Enjoy great social occasions](#)

email: [membership@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:membership@ldwa.org.uk)  
website: <http://www.ldwa.org.uk/bedsbucksandnorthants>

**Long Distance Walkers Association  
Beds Bucks and Northants Group**  
aim: to further the interests of those who enjoy long distance walking

---



**Challenge yourself** to walk a bit further ...

- Take part in Challenge Events
- Walk with your Local Group
- Enjoy great social occasions

email: [membership@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:membership@ldwa.org.uk)  
website: [www.ldwa.org.uk/bedsbucksandnortants](http://www.ldwa.org.uk/bedsbucksandnortants)

**LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION**  
aim: to further the interests of those who enjoy long distance walking

---



**Challenge yourself** to walk a bit further ...

- Take part in a Challenge Event
  - Walk with a Local Group
- Over 1000 Long Distance Paths online
- Find books and maps for your walks

email: [membership@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:membership@ldwa.org.uk)  
website: [www.ldwa.org.uk](http://www.ldwa.org.uk)

It was agreed to have printing on one side only, to allow names/events/phone numbers etc to be written on the reverse. Norman will get full costings for next committee meeting.  
Norman is arranging for the BBN logo to be re-drawn as we do not have an electronic version.

**4. Insurance Issues – Incident Reports** There were no matters to report.

**5. LDWA**

**(a) AGM 2013:** Congratulations to Dave who was elected Events Secretary at the National AGM.

**(b) AGM 2014:** No information yet.

**6. LDWA 100**

**(a) 2013 100 – Cornwall & Devon** Norman is in charge with 11 helpers. Arrangements are being finalised.

**(b) 2014 100 – South Wales** BBN are manning CP4 - a tent outside a pub. No further details yet,

**(c) 2015 100 – East Lancs** We have asked for an early cp. Not finalised yet,

**(d) 2016 100 – Dorset** BBN would like an indoor CP. Dave and Merrian are manning a passage control at 97 miles.

**7. BBN Challenge Events**

**(a) Chiltern Kanter - 3rd March 2013 – Norman Corrin**

It all went well in particular with the venues which were all new.

Pre-entry numbers were well up with 167 entering but there were 31 non-starters and with only 17 entering on the day, there were a total of 153 started. That's the lowest I've ever known. Dave said the event clashed with the Berkhamsted Half Marathon which was their loss.

The weather was gorgeous with bright sunshine but a very bitter wind and the entrants were particularly grateful that all of the checkpoints were indoors. So the National Trust did us a favour!

I've contacted the venues to see if they were content with the way we left them and all of them said they'd be quite happy to have us back again in 2015. This is of course dependent upon us being able to use the car parking at Goodrich Engineering or another company on Pitstone Business Park.

Lots of favourable comments from entrants in particular the new route round the back of Tring. I've written results for the June Newsletter.

The ASDA food bank in Milton Keynes also did well with 11 loaves on the Monday!

With Mike's help I'm willing to organise it again in 2015

It was agreed not to make a donation to the National Trust.

**(b) Steppingley Step - 3rd November 2013 – Merrian Lancaster/Lynn Yorston**

Merrian confirmed the marshals are close to being sorted. Dave F-H has done most of the work on the routes.

Lynn said the Harlington checkpoint is now settled. It will be in the car park shelter of The Old Sun pub – the cp will be closed before the pub opens. A donation will be made to a charity of the pub's choice. Food profiles have all been agreed. Work now starting on badges and certificates.

**(c) S-S-S Triple – Lynn Yorston**

The Triple Challenge badges have now been received. We have decided the format for the certificates and will set to work on these asap.

It had previously been agreed that the group would pay for the triple badges. Over 100 walkers may qualify this year; qualification will then be ongoing from year to year.

(d) **Pick and Mix 2014 – Lynn Yorston**

Dave has contacted the Great Missenden School but still awaits their reply. With the approval of this committee, we have asked the school's availability for both Sunday 30th March as well as the usual Sunday 3rd March. We considered the later date would give a longer daylight span and maybe better weather. It would also avoid the possible clash with the LDWA National AGM. Once we have the date confirmed for the main event, we will set the marshals' walk date.

30th March 2014 was agreed as the event date if the school is available.

**8. BBN 30th Anniversary Events**

Nigel said he was very impressed with the long list of special anniversary events being organised and thanked all those involved for their support.

- (a) **Chiltern Brewery trip** - Saturday 18th May 2013 – John Davies
- (b) **30 mile group walk** - Saturday 22nd June 2013 - Chris Bent
- (c) **Beds 30km group walk** - Sunday 30th June 2013 – Sue Leonard
- (d) **Bucks 30km group walk** - Saturday 27th July 2013 - Dave and Lynn Yorston

Dave has walked his route out once again and is very happy with it. Everyone will be invited to stay for tea and snacks in our back garden, weather permitting, afterwards. They might also have the opportunity to visit 'Malt, the Brewery' which is located at the end of our road.

- (e) **Canal boat Cruise** - Sunday 18th August 2013 - Norman Corrin

Currently there are 22 members who've booked. I phoned Glebe cruises and I don't have to let them know who wants a meal until 2-3 weeks before. The minimum number is 30 so I need 8 more. I'll walk the route out after the 100 in June.

- (f) **80ish mile Bunyan Trail** over 4 days (2 weekends)  
Saturday 31st August/Sunday 1st September & Saturday 7th/Sunday 8th September 2013  
Derek Jacob, Eric Cartwright, Dee Brockway, Therese & Daniel Jamin

- (g) **Northants 30km group walk** – Sunday 22nd September 2013 - Martin Lawson

- (h) **Milton Keynes Boundary Walk** over 3 days  
Saturday 19th - Monday 21st October 2013 – Sylvie Eames, Gill Bunker and Steve Clark

- (i) **Quiz** - October 2013 – Sunday 27th October - Norman Corrin

Dee has sent the details of the quiz to the London, Thames Valley and Essex Herts group secretaries. Margaret Romanski will let me know by the 25th October how many from London group will be attending. They will arrive at Milton Keynes Station at about 09.30 so will want picking up.

I've contacted the Berks Oxon and Bucks Air Ambulance and they will be sending a representative to give a talk which will last about 30 mins or 40 minutes with questions. On occasions they do bring merchandise along to sell. So would it be appropriate to bring along their merchandise and avoid us doing a raffle?

B.O.B does not cover London, Essex Herts or Beds but there are separate Air Ambulances for these areas and they will be happy to provide leaflets for members to take away.

As BOB will bring their own merchandise it was agreed not to have a fund-raising raffle.

- (j) **Commemorative item** In view of the large number of special events/walks planned it was agreed not to proceed with this.

**9. AOB** Lynn wanted to record thanks to all who had helped on the 100 marshals' event, particularly Sue Leonard who had worked extremely hard.

Nigel thanked everyone for attending and Merrian for hosting the meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.04 pm.

The next committee meeting will take place on Thursday 26th September 2013 at 7.45 at Lynn's 3 Lodge Lane, Prestwood