

LDWA East Lancs Group

Minutes of the Meeting Held at 8pm on Tuesday 4th February 2020
at the Doffcocker Inn, Chorley Old Road, Bolton BL1 5QD.

Present:

Hilary Scott (HS)	Chair / IT Secretary
Roger Jackson (RJ)	Secretary
Viv Lee (VL)	Social Secretary
David Walsh (DW)	Walks Secretary
Caroline Tennant (CT)	Events Secretary
Alma Walsh (AW)	Ordinary Committee Member
Pauline Melia (PM)	Ordinary Committee Member
Nick Halford (NH)	Ordinary Committee Member
Mike Bushby (MB)	Barbara Shelton (BS)
Ian Hamilton (IH)	Jane Hill (JH)
Tony Clark (TC)	Paul Raine (PR)
Steve Clark (SCL)	

Apologies:

Paul Allen (PA)	Gordon Stone (GS)
Andy Griffin (AG)	Paul Wadsworth (PW)
Alison Wadsworth (AW)	

The Group was quorate and the meeting opened at 8.00 pm and closed at 09.55 pm.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of January's meeting.

2. Matters Arising:

19.01 Ongoing discussion of spending some funds.

VL has established contact with 'Friends of Redisher Woods'. A meeting will be established shortly, to establish where East Lancs would wish repair work to occur, with a view to a possible donation to assist with these costs. Will report back for the group's consideration on this **May Update:** A meeting has now been arranged to view the area concerned and then a decision can be made. **June Update:** VL has had a meeting with Dave Chadwick and others to discuss the required Redisher Woods footpath improvements, in particular ones related to the Two Crosses event. The full estimate for the work is £8000 to £10000. It will be completed by a contractor who does regular work for the council and can be done either in one go or in several stages as the money is available. Crowd funding is being considered with various groups including 'Ramblers' as possibilities. Also, we are applying to the NEC to see if they can help. VL suggested East Lancs

LDWA offer to contribute £1000, which was proposed by the Chair and agreed by the meeting. **July Update:** HS has contacted Dave Chadwick concerning our contribution. Also, VL/CT have put together a detailed proposal, requesting additional funds, to be sent to the NEC. **Action:** HS to send proposal to NEC in time before next NEC meeting. **August Update:** HS sent the proposal to the NEC; it was accepted and the full £1000 granted. She has also informed Dave Chadwick of the decision so he can progress the repairs. **September Update:** We have not heard from Dave Chadwick re the contractor looking/starting the work. **Action:** HS to email Dave Chadwick requesting an update on progress. **October Update :** HS has spoken to Dave Chadwick who has in turn spoken to the contractor. Apparently one hundred steps are required, he will be coming back to Dave with a quote for the work. Dave has since contacted HS to say the contractor has quoted £5000 for the work, split into four sections. This means we are £2000 short of funding the whole scheme. Dave has contacted the Ramblers and had an initial positive response. He has provided the relevant information and they will discuss the request for funding at the next Area Executive Council meeting scheduled for 14th October. Having split the scheme into four sections we have options to carry out some of the work if funding falls short, but he is not going to give that further consideration until after the Ramblers' meeting. **January Update:** Dave Chadwick updated Hilary shortly before the meeting. The contractor has been appointed and weather permitting work should be completed before March 15th (Two Crosses). We will be invoiced for our contribution; PA is aware of this. HS asked to be informed when the contractor is due to start so we can go and get some photos. Both we and the Ramblers have expressed a wish to have a plaque. Dave has no objection so it is something we will need to sort out between ourselves.

February Update: HS contacted Dave Chadwick for an update on when work on Redisher Woods' may start. He replied saying there is not a start date as yet and confirming a date is likely to be a little last minute as there needs to be a spell of dry(ish) weather before they can access the path from the fields above Redisher Wood. Looking back there has been works done in March last year, using the same access, so there has been access at this time of year. He was hoping to get a clearer picture with the contractor and landowner before the end of the week.

Post meeting Dave gave us an update, he had a very positive meeting with the contractor and neighbouring landowner. The landowner is being very supportive in terms of materials being transported across his land to the top of the steps. As a result, it was concluded that it would only be a prolonged covering of snow that could delay the work beyond the mid-March deadline. The contractor proposes to start work commencing 17th February, but that has to be confirmed. Once this is confirmed, we can agree an appropriate day/time us to visit the site. **Ongoing:**

19.7 **Breath of Fresh Air Website**

As the Breath of Fresh Air website has only had a few hits recently and entries in the walkers register at the Stork Hotel have been mainly limited to East Lancs LDWA members. we felt we should consider if it should be retained as an independent site and domain. After a short discussion it was agreed not to keep the website but to hold all the information on the East Lancs LDWA site and provide a link from the main LDWA website. **Action:** HS to progress.

February Update: HS has updated the East Lancs Website but is still waiting for GPX files from GS before she can complete the job. **Ongoing**

20.1 **Breath of Fresh Air Fire at the Stork.**

The recent fire at the Stork in Conder Green. was raised prior to the meeting for discussion . HS confirmed that she was aware of the event, and the website had already been updated under 'Other Activities / Breath of Fresh Air'. Routes are still walkable from the cafe at Conder Green. Norman Thomas has investigated and believes that unfortunately the comments book has almost certainly been lost. **Closed**

20.2

Following several people declaring an interest VL looked into the possibility of, as we have done previously, getting some black tracksters with East Lancs LDWA printed on legs. A bulk order would lead to a price of £18 each. After a short discussion we decided to send out a bulk email to gauge interest. **Action** RJ to send bulk email. **February Update:** RJ sent out bulk email little response so far. **Ongoing**

3 **Chair and Secretary Update:**

January has been another successful month. Well attended walks, a successful social trip to Ambleside and Viv has won the LDWA Eager Beaver Award. I'm keeping this short as we have a lot to discuss and we are looking forward to Tony's talk on Peru.

4 **Treasurer's Update**

The Treasurer gave an update of the group's accounts which continue to hold heathy balance even when we take account of money being held for Ghyll Head , Welsh 100 and that we have already received for this year's Two Crosses.

5 **Event Secretary's Update:**

Two Crosses – All still on schedule; we have 158 entries still well up on last year. Following a reccy a few minor route adjustments may be required to the route. Resource plan nearly complete. The risk assessment may have to be updated if the work in Redisher Wood is not completed but as advised by TC this can be done before or even on the day of the event if necessary.

6 **Walks Secretary's Update:**

May to August walk details are on the website but are not yet been released. Walk leaders for September to December are now required, on dates provided in recent bulk email.

Dave also confirmed he would not be standing as Walks Secretary at the next AGM and offered to explain the role to anyone interested in taking over. Any Volunteer's ??

7 Social Secretary's Update:

VL reported a group of East Lancs members had recently returned from a very enjoyable weekend at the Old Vicarage in Ambleside.

VL Hi-lighted the following future events.

Future Events

2020

Feb - Keswick – Fully Booked 18 people.

April – South West Coast Path. Based Weymouth.

May – The Welsh 100 Accommodation at Longtown Outdoor Centre.

June 6th Two Crosses / Red Rose 50 / LDWA 100 Party –discussion on venue on Agenda.

June 14th Ramsbottom Round Charity Walk.

For further details or to book a place please contact the Social Secretary, Viv.

8 IT Secretary's Update:

Website is up to date. Facebook- some interaction and more likes/joiners. Some posts are being shared with the main LDWA Facebook page to help raise our profile.

A query was raised that– many other groups have received a request to help fund the LDWA Website update and have agreed to donate. Also, the Chair's Newsletter says that twenty groups have committed to a challenge walk non-member levy as agreed at the Group Reps weekend. What requests have EL received and what is our response to them?

Julia Warman has recently contacted HS asking for the next few monthly meeting dates and if she could come to one and explain the situation and the NEC's position re the website (and I assume encourage us to do like the other groups). Hilary sent her the meeting dates confirming she is very welcome to come to a meeting. However, as she had a long way to come from Yorkshire, Hilary suggested Julia could explain things over the phone then Hilary would bring it to our next meeting as an Agenda Item. Julia took Hilary up on this offer and is also sending some printed matter regarding the issue. So, we would expect it to be discussed in full at the March meeting and the group decide our response.

10 Pastoral Care

Alma has had a productive month contacting several present and past members.

11 Publicity

PM has designed an East Lancs Business card and, following agreement with the committee, had 500 printed, which she brought to the meeting, to be given to members to hand out. The card, that looks very professional and provides clear contact information for both the LDWA Nationally and East Lancs Group, was well received at the meeting.

She has been in contact with Lancashire Life considering various options, and approached several sports, walking retailers and community organisations. In addition, we now have a page on the "Our Lancashire" website, along with South Pennine

Following last month's brainstorming several thoughts / concerns were put forward for consideration at this meeting. HS read them out in full, summarised below.

- As the LDWA are a national organisation we should concentrate on being actively involved with the National Association, regarding publicity, rather than following our own agenda.
- If we are to have a push on publicity, then a regular update on member numbers should be given at each meeting to judge the response.

There was general agreement that we should of course work within the National Association regarding publicity, however there was no reason for this to preclude our own initiatives or those with other individual groups. PM has been in touch with the National Publicity Officer and there is no material available at present for groups to use. There are plans for some in the pipeline. He has promised to let PM know when the new material/guidelines are available so that she can plan accordingly.

It would be interesting to monitor how well we are doing, but this should, as well as just numbers, include things like, enthusiasm, entrants on events and walk attendance.

12 Redisher Woods slippery steps

Some of the steps previously improved by 'Friends of Redisher Woods' have become slippery and require further maintenance. VL has been in contact with Neil Anderton regarding the possibility of East Lancs helping, possibly contributing towards the stone or perhaps as small working party working under their lead. **Action:** VL to contact Neil.

Post meeting Neil has contacted Viv, he has spoken to the contractor, doing the East Lancs work, and as it is only as small job, he will do this extra work for free.

Closed

13 LDWA 100 / Red Rose 50 / Two Crosses Party

We have had a volunteer to hold the party at a members house in Sabden.. As this slightly of the way for some members, it was suggested we could arrange a series of minibuses to pick people up and drop them off afterwards. The meeting decided the best way forward was to send out a bulk email to determine how many members would be happy to travel to Sabden and who would be interested in a minibus. **Action:** RJ to arrange bulk email

Other possibilities suggested were St Margaret's, Doffcocker , any other Church Hall / Clubs -many offer rooms for free.

14 Graham Wilson - 120 Marathons in 120 days

Graham will be completing 120 Marathons in 120 days starting on 21/03/20 and finishing on 18/07/20. The Marathons are all approx 26.5 miles long and will be walked in every county in England, as well as two Camino's, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

We will be visiting our area on the following days,

16/06/20 Cheshire- Crewe and Nantwich Walk.

17/06/20 Merseyside- Mersey Way.

20/06/20 Manchester- Irwell Sculpture Trail.

21/06/20 Lancashire - Villages of Ribble Valley Trail.

He wondered if any of our members would like to possibly lead him around the route or join in. He is currently asking people to join him on this journey and complete a section or the whole distance.

Action: RJ to ask if anyone is interested in helping via a bulk email and give the details so that people can contact Graham directly.

15 AOB

None

After the formal meeting business, TC gave a most enjoyable talk about his recent adventure in Peru. Thank you to TC.

Date and Time of the Next Meeting

8pm, on Tuesday, 3rd March 2020

at the Doffcocker Inn, Chorley Old Road, Bolton BL1 5QD.

Sandwiches will be provided.

ALL WELCOME