

Northumbria LDWA Group

Walks Programme and Policies 2015

This note is intended as an introduction to agenda item 6 at our AGM on 10th January. It anticipates that the members present on that occasion will support the proposal that Jackie Ritchie will be welcomed by those present to the post of Walk Secretary where she will be assisted by Ian Lauriston. Between them Jackie and Ian will endeavour to carry out the duties of this post which will of course include the provision of an attractive walk programme for 2015.

The fact that this is now seen as a joint role shows how well Diane Smith did for some years when she set out to fulfil the Walk Secretary responsibilities. We all owe our thanks to Diane.

In our quest to pick up from where Diane left off we intend in the main to stick to the format that has been in place for the group for some time; however we plan that there will be some changes and hope that these will be attractive to group members and so prove to be popular.

We have for some years had an LDWA walk every two weeks throughout the year. Within this arrangement we will include the two marshal walks for the Durham Dales and the event itself. The established system for issuing e-mail reminders some two weeks prior to the walk will continue and we also hope to have a summer evening schedule that will be published in due course.

We do however want to explore some additional aspects of our walks; these might include;

- We will encourage linear walks. This may require some imagination as to handling the need to return to our starting point. This might mean public transport or even the hire of private transport.
- We will attempt to visit all parts of our region and address this requirement as we put the programme together. In addition we will try to include in each Strider programme one walk outside our area. By this we mean a trip to the Lakes, Yorkshire or the Borders. Given that the distances involved might mean overnight stays become the most practical way of approaching such ventures we will offer budget accommodation opportunities whenever appropriate.
- We may on occasion seek to link with other LDWA groups, particularly our friends in Cumbria.
- We will invite volunteers to come forward with walk ideas for inclusion in the programme. We will identify a date by which we will need these ideas to be forwarded but we will not return to members a second time. In the event the programme is short of willing leaders we will approach experienced individuals to come forward

with their proposals as we know modesty is an inherent characteristic with some leaders.

- We may very well change and develop how we operate this system. The important point is to assemble a programme with the maximum of interest and minimum of fuss. For the present however we intend to work in a way everyone is accustomed to and can respond to positively. We should emphasis that we encourage any contributions and feedback from members on how we put together walk programmes and deliver these.

There is a further point that I feel it may be necessary to make clear. We, Jackie and I, both take a pluralistic approach to our walking. Neither of us walks exclusively with the Northumbria LDWA but we go out frequently with other groups and indeed alone. We recognise that we are no longer restricted by the need go to work and that not all Northumbria group members are in this situation. However we encourage all those who walk with the group to explore whatever walking opportunities they may encounter.

We look forward to listening to any observations on these proposed plans for 2015 and will be try to answer any questions anyone may have when we all meet on 10th January.

Ian Lauriston
Jackie Ritchie