

Thames Valley LDWA 2024 Annual Report

Secretary's Report 2024

The main success to report in 2024 was the second running of the Marlow Donkey challenge walk. Thanks to everyone who helped on this, particularly Shahina, who again contributed her daal curry, which it seems has now been favourably commented during challenge walks across the country!. We run this event on a minimum work basis, with regular volunteers but if you would like to help next year (September 28th), please let me know. John, Geoff and David are already working on a new route.

As shown in Sarah's accounts, our financial strategy is to run the group on as close as possible financial balance between the proceeds of the Marlow Donkey and subsidising benefits and events for members, such as the Church Teas and Christmas Party. The Christmas Party, with a caterer brought in, was thus paid for in this manner. Many thanks to Anushka and Alison for running this successful event in my short term notified absence.

We had relatively little interaction with other LDWA groups in 2024. There was no Groups weekend or awayday, just a couple of Zooms which Andrew attended. The main discussions centred on NEC recommendations on recceing walks (strong recommendation) and on walk registers (compulsory). We have little dispute on these, though we are very generous on what constitutes a 'recce', particularly for those who lead 10 walks a year. We did not help on the Scottish 100 (well done Huw and others who completed this) as there seemed to be little interest in doing so, but have committed to the Flower of Suffolk 100 on May 24/25th. Let Ron Doole or myself know if you if can help marshalling.

The group is only able to continue if we have volunteers not only to run events but also to serve on the Committee. At the time of writing, we have no Chair identified for 2025 and only just enough Committee Members to form a quorum, which gives us all sorts of constitutional problems (e.g. getting financial authority for any purchases I make) and therefore creates additional work for the few remaining committee members. Many thanks to Gerry for covering for a year and particularly to Graham, who is standing down from what is really the most important role of all of Walks Secretary, after far too many years in the job. 2026 is the 50th anniversary of the group and while we have plenty money in our reserves to stage an appropriate celebration, we do need to establish a stronger committee going forward to that year before we can start arranging anything. Please consider whether you can help in any position, particularly newer members.

Duncan Macgregor

Thames Valley LDWA Treasurer Report 2023/24

In summary the total cash balance increased by £239 year on year. The increase in funds was driven by a successful Marlow Donkey offset in part by other costs including subsidising a number of social events including the walks tea & cake and the 2023 Christmas lunch.

The overall benefit of the Marlow Donkey challenge event was £609, this was an increase over the 2023 event due to the planned increase in participant numbers. This successful challenge event format is planned to be continued and is the source of income for the group.

Overall, the Groups financial position remains good and means that we have reserves in place to ensure we are financially stable and also enables us to subsidise social events.

I would like to thank Lynda Ledger for her independent review of the accounts.

Sarah Easingwood-Wilson, Treasurer

Cashbook: 1.11.2023 - 31.10.2024

Summary	31.10.21	31.10.22	31.10.23	31.10.24
Reserve Account Balance	£2,430.20	£2,432.52	£2,459.19	£2,495.08
Business Account Balance	£4,315.21	£4,845.60	£6,011.50	£6,214.61
Cash in Hand	-	-	-	-
Total	£6,745.41	£7,278.12	£8,470.69	£8,709.69
Increase / (Decrease)	£1,559.38	£532.71	£1,192.57	£239.00

Movement for the Year

Cash inflow	£1,539.50
Cash outflow	(£1,336.39)
Add reserve interest	£35.89
Total	£239.00
	£0.00

Note: As at 31st October there were stocks of mugs & Oxon 4020 badges (11 mugs & 30 badges) with a purchase price value of £61. The cost of these was expensed in the year of purchase, all proceeds from their sale are included in the relevant year. In the year 6 mugs were sold for a total of £12, this is included in the cash inflow

Business Account Cashflow		Cash Inflow	Cash Outflow	Net Cashflow
Marlow Donkey 2024		£1,454.50	£845.58	£608.92
Christmas Lunch 2023	Some deposits were received in the 2022/23 year. All deposits relating to the 2024 lunch are received in the 2024/25 year	£85.00	£150.11	(£65.11)
AGM 2024		-	£176.43	(£176.43)
Walks tea & cake		-	£214.27	(£214.27)
National Meeting	Refunds of costs received in 2023/24 relating to payments made in 2022/23	-	(£50.00)	£50.00
Other		-	-	-
Total		£1,539.50	£1,336.39	£203.11
		-	-	-

Note: Cash inflow is net of any refunds given and cash outflow is net of any refunds received

Walks Co-ordinator's Report 2024

We are still managing to offer at least one walk most Sundays but, due to the number of injured leaders over the year, it has been a struggle. The “tea & cakes” walks continue to attract many people, and we hope to see more during the next Spring and Summer.

As with last year the walks have been possible only because a core of leaders has been leading most of the walks, so **please** consider helping out. We have a sizeable number of past Oxon20 walks which have descriptions and GPX files on our web site, and many of our previous walks have GPX files available in the LDWA Walks Database, to which I add routes and photographs when available.

The average number attending a walk in 2024 was **8** (10) for Sunday A, **8** (8) for Sunday B, **15** (16) for those Sundays with both A and B, and **6** (8) for Wednesday. (Last year's figures in parentheses.)

There were **39** (46) Sunday A walks, **35** (26) Sunday B walks and **4** (12) Wednesday walks.

Graham Croucher