



LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

furthering the interests of those who enjoy long distance walking

www.ldwa.org.uk

LDWA Chair's Newsletter: December 2019

Welcome to the December 2019 LDWA Chair's Newsletter.

During the weekend of the 15-17 November the Local Groups Reps' weekend was held in Sherwood Youth Hostel. I want to publicly thank Julie Cribb our NEC Local Groups volunteer for putting such a wonderful weekend together. The workshops on Friday and Saturday evenings were well supported, the delegates enjoyed the walks on the Saturday and the formal meeting on the Sunday morning was very informative. And, Julie did all of the work whilst knowing that she was unable to travel due to health issues. That the weekend was so successful is testament to her professionalism and attention to detail. Thank-you Julie and to your wonderful daughters, Naomi and Hannah who worked so hard all weekend feeding everybody with high quality fayre!

During the weekend, Project 50 (Business Plan 2e) was discussed at length. The workshop looked at a list of ideas that had previously been collated and whittled down to a more manageable number. It was clear that two in particular were very popular and I am sure that work will progress to recognise our 50th anniversary in an appropriate way. How about a walk from Land's End to John o' Groats as a relay and via every LDWA local group area during the year? Happy 'Long Distance' Walking!
David Morgan
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More On The IT Long Term Funding Plan



At the risk of sounding like a broken record, in late November another issue occurred with our current website and electronic system. I was advised by Adam Dawson, our NEC IT volunteer that we had yet another

bug to contend with. This time the bug was in the depths of our membership system and was affecting our automatic renewals. Clearly, with the LDWA relying upon people renewing and our encouragement to use Direct Debit when doing so, any bug that affected that process was clearly going to be of great concern to the association.

Many volunteer hours by Adam and our NEC Membership volunteer Julia Warman were spent on rectifying the problem and in addition we had to divert funds to our IT supplier in order to pay them to fix the problem.

Why am I telling you this? Because I am receiving feedback that we do not need to invest in a new IT system from members who believe that your NEC is exaggerating that we need a new website and electronic system. Until we can move to a website with modern systems, the LDWA will have to contend with such issues for years to come.

I've been asked what the IT issue has to do with local groups. Here is a summary of why IT is important. Every local group has a website that promotes the long distance walking in their area. Every local group has access to the bulk emailing system that ensures nobody breaches GDPR. In addition, local groups have access to the membership details for their area. If IT fails then access to the membership will disappear. Every local group can advertise their challenge walks via Strider and the website. Walk organisers upload their walk details via our IT system. And, perhaps most importantly, local groups advertise their social walks via their own website and the national LDWA website. By pulling together as one huge team, I feel certain that the LDWA can meet this IT funding challenge head on.



Phoebe's Started Her Walk

In Strider 145, Phoebe Smith wrote an article about the walk that she was planning to do with Dwayne Fields from Dunnet Head to Lizard Point whilst pulling a sledge on wheels. Phoebe is training for a trip as well as fundraising to take underprivileged children to Antarctica in 2021. Due to Phoebe's following on social media and because she is the President of the LDWA, the association is receiving considerable positive exposure. Our NEC Publicity volunteer, David Holland has advised the local groups who are on Phoebe's route and hopefully we can support her as she walks south. I'm hoping to meet her on the 20th December in South East Wales. You can follow her progress on Twitter at: [@phoebeRSmith](https://twitter.com/phoebeRSmith)
<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/wetwo>

Last month I asked for assistance from members who would help Evelyne Wilkinson run our Instagram page. I'm so grateful to the volunteers who have committed to working with Evelyne and therefore, in doing so, have provided some resilience on this important aspect of the association's ability to reach out to younger members of the wider walking community.

