



LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

furthering the interests of those who enjoy long distance walking

www.ldwa.org.uk

LDWA Chair's Newsletter: January 2020

Welcome to the January 2020 LDWA Chair's Newsletter.

Happy New Year to all LDWA members! I'm sorry that my newsletter is nearly a month late. I've been busy with various commitments.

Kingsley Lambert who became the new Discounts Officer for the LDWA has had to step down from the role due to changes to his work commitments. LDWA members enjoy a vast array of discounts with a number of retailers and we'd love to make enquiries with other retailers where discounts might benefit our members. If you think that you have the time to make enquiries with retailers on behalf of the LDWA, please email me and I can provide more information on how the role might work.

Mary Dee shared a touching article that she had seen in the Sunday Mirror last week. The article had been written by Kevin Webber about the positive experience he had enjoyed on the Surrey LDWA Winter Tanners event. He commented on everything we know to be the ethos of our wonderful association. Value for money on a non-competitive event, great camaraderie, food at checkpoints and support from the smiling volunteers. He even outlined how much it costs to join the LDWA. I don't think we'll see a better endorsement!

There will be no Chair's Newsletter in February and the March newsletter will be scheduled to arrive after the AGM weekend.

Happy 'Long Distance' Walking!

David Morgan

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Phoebe's Seabirds to South Walk



I think that it's fair to say that our President, Phoebe Smith and her colleague Dwayne Fields endured appalling weather during their 828 mile walk from Dunnet Head to Lizard Point during December. They camped out every night and eventually Phoebe's kit started to fail after so many days of atrocious weather. Thanks to the power of social media, when she asked for help, members of various communities along the route did everything they could to assist. Phoebe and Dwayne were offered halls to dry their equipment and plenty of hot food and drink. It was lovely to see several LDWA members meet Phoebe and a LDWA friend and I managed to walk with her as she crossed from Wales into England on the Severn Bridge. Whilst Phoebe was undertaking the walk to raise money to take underprivileged children to Antarctica, the LDWA benefited from her walk. We were mentioned by Phoebe and Dwayne on BBC Breakfast News on 25.12 and our social media platforms attracted several new followers which might also have contributed to the big increase in new LDWA members that is keeping Julia Warman very busy!

Membership

Julia Warman has been working very hard on behalf of all of us. She's been working through a particularly busy period and it's not unusual for her to be working 30 hour weeks managing the membership portfolio.

The NEC Membership volunteer role has always been a busy post and has always been supported by other LDWA volunteers. It is particularly busy at this time of year as January marks the start of a new membership year. Julia is currently supported by her husband Ralph Warman and Chair of West Yorkshire LDWA, Karen Pickersgill. Without their help, the long hours that Julia is working would be even longer.

Julia will be hosting a workshop at the AGM on Friday 13th March where she will be outlining how about a third of her time is spent looking after members' enquiries where members could actually resolve the enquiries themselves. Please do make a point of going in order to learn how you can help reduce Julia's work rate.



IT Fund

I am pleased to report that several local groups are going to support one of the revenue streams that the NEC is developing to raise the necessary funds.

I've previously outlined that a considerable fund is required and the AGM will be updated with regards to work that the NEC is scoping in relation to other revenue streams. To date **20** local groups have indicated that they support the challenge walk non-member levy, the idea of which was developed by group representatives at the weekend in November. Some groups do not actually host challenge events at this time but if they were to do so, they would support the idea. The following groups have given permission for the membership to be updated. Thank-you very much to: Kent / Lakeland / London / North Yorkshire / Northumbria / South Wales / Surrey / Thames Valley / West Yorkshire / Mid Wales.