

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION LIMITED



2017 AGM & SOCIAL WEEKEND

Friday 10th March to Sunday 12th March 2017

Horwood House, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday 12th March 2017

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION LIMITED

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Long Distance Walkers Association Limited will be held at Horwood House, Little Horwood, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK17 0PH, at 10.00 am on Sunday 12th March, 2017.

The business of the Annual General Meeting will be as follows:

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 13th March 2016.
3. To receive and consider the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2016 and the reports of the Directors and Accountants.
4. To appoint Accountants for 2016/17, and authorise the Committee to fix their remuneration.
5. To receive reports as follows:
 - (1) Reports from National Committee Members
 - (2) Other reports
6. To note the result of the 2017 NEC election (see page 41):

(a) Chair	(e) Editor
(b) General Secretary	(f) Internet Officer
(c) Treasurer	(g) 6 Executive Officers
(d) Membership Secretary	

The present Editor of *Strider* and the General Secretary, having completed their terms of Office, are standing down from the Committee. The remaining Officers have been returned unopposed. Details of nominees for the posts of General Secretary and *Strider* Editor have been published and are shown on the LDWA website. Members' votes must have been received 14 days before the AGM to be valid, and totals for each candidate will be reported to the Chair by the appointed tellers.

7. To determine the subscription for the Membership Year 2018. In this connection, please note the proposal from the Membership Secretary for an increase in Overseas Members fees to offset postal costs. This change does not affect UK members' subscription rates.
8. To authorise the Committee to determine honoraria payments in accordance with past practice.
9. Any other business. Duly proposed and seconded resolutions from members must be notified to the General Secretary at least 6 weeks before the meeting.

End of formal business

Open forum and discussion.

The National Executive Committee will introduce the subject of a proposed constitutional change, which is intended to provide greater stability and improve the effectiveness of officers elected to the NEC. The forum may include other matters which the membership would wish the Committee to consider during the forthcoming year. Questions can be submitted in writing to the General Secretary by 3rd March 2017. There will also be a box for questions at the Registration Desk for the AGM, which will be collected at 8.00am on Sunday 12th March. Questions will be accepted at the meeting at the discretion of the Chair.

Invitees and attendees of this meeting should be aware that the minutes of the meeting will be published on the LDWA website and available to the public.

Phil Heneghan, General Secretary *On behalf of the Executive Committee*

Agenda Item 2

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION LTD.

MINUTES of the 17th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of LDWA Ltd held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, 13th March 2016 at The Palace Hotel, Buxton, Derbyshire. (To be approved at the 2017 AGM held at Horwood House, Milton Keynes).

PRESENT. The names of 122 members who attended were recorded in the Attendance Register and are listed at the end of these Minutes.

Notice of Meeting. The General Secretary read the formal notice convening the meeting and asked for everyone to sign the Attendance Register.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Terry Baines, Sandra Brown, Richard Brown, David Holland (Publicity Officer), Les Maple, Neil Rawlins (Long Distance Paths Officer), Avril Stapleton, Margaret Waller, Robert Waller and Julie Welch (Editor).

2. Minutes of the 16th Annual General Meeting of LDWA Ltd held on Sunday, 15th March 2015

The Minutes of the meeting were contained in the booklet circulated to those attending the 2016 AGM. The Minutes were proposed for acceptance as a true and accurate record by all those members present who had been at the 2015 Annual General Meeting. Proposed for acceptance by **John Sparshatt** (West Yorkshire), seconded by **Peter Toghil** (Wessex) and **APPROVED**.

2.1 Matters Arising

At the 2015 AGM **Hazel Bound** (Cornwall and Devon) had asked what progress had been made with the query she had raised at the 2014 Open Forum on family membership (see 2015 AGM Minutes, para. 2.1). In the Membership Secretary's absence **John Sparshatt** (then Chair) had replied that the intention was to split families into individuals with separate log-ins and that this work would start in 2015. **Gail Elrick** (Chair) said that it has not yet been possible to complete this task but that it would be completed by the 2017 Annual General Meeting.

3. Accounts and Reports

The accounts for the year ending 30th September 2015 and the Report of the Directors were contained in the booklet circulated to those attending the 2016 Annual General Meeting.

Sandy Gee (Hon. Treasurer) said that the accounts showed a healthy surplus of £14,000. The increase of nearly £10,000 was due to better retention which increased membership income and a reduction in administrative costs. He anticipated that work on the Long Distance Paths database in 2016 would eat into the surplus, but there was no need to consider an increase in subscriptions.

Keith Chesterton (Surrey) asked why donations had increased from £105 to £600. **Sandy Gee** replied that donations had been given to footpath projects, notably £500 to a project in West Yorkshire in response to a request from the project leader, **John Sparshatt** (West Yorkshire). The current policy was to limit donations paid each year to the amount of donations received by the LDWA (currently about £1,000). For 2016 the National Executive Committee was considering making donations to Mountain Rescue and a footpath upgrade in Stow on the Wold. **Gail Elrick** (Chair) asked for more requests for donations and said that details of the donations policy would appear in the April 'Strider'. **Keith Chesterton** thought that the £1,000 limit should be raised to £5,000.

Peter Forrest (London) thought that the Deposit Account Interest received of £695 was too low and asked the Hon. Treasurer whether he should consider more innovative methods of investment. **Sandy Gee** replied that he had recently changed the LDWA's short-term deposits to a new provider offering a higher interest rate. His view was that peer-to-peer lending and investment in equities were too risky and therefore unsuitable.

The accounts were proposed for acceptance by **Ian Beveridge** (Wessex), seconded by John Stewart (Northumbria) and **APPROVED**.

4. To appoint Accountants and authorise the National Executive Committee to fix their remuneration

Sandy Gee proposed that the existing accountants R. F. Miller and Co., Bellevue, Princes Street, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 7NB should be re-appointed for the year ending 30 September 2016 and that the National Executive Committee should be authorised to fix their remuneration. He highlighted the firm's quick turnaround and its reduced fees. Proposed for acceptance by **Ian Beveridge** (Wessex), seconded by **John Stewart** (Northumbria) and **APPROVED**.

5. Annual Reports

The Annual Reports were contained in the booklet circulated to those attending the 2016 Annual General Meeting. The reports are also available to members via the LDWA web site in the Library Section. Those members without Internet access can request a booklet from the General Secretary.

5a) Chair - Gail Elrick

Gail said that her report was a summary of what she had done in the year and where she wanted to go. She paid tribute to the very good team support she had received. Important building blocks were in place in areas such as data protection, risk management and publicity and her priority for the coming year was to prepare a Business Plan to identify where the LDWA was going. She also wanted to set up an on-line volunteers' forum to obtain members' views on new ideas and initiatives and would be asking for helpers in her bulk e-mail to be issued after the Annual General Meeting. **John Sparshatt** (West Yorkshire) supported this approach.

5b) General Secretary - Philip Heneghan

Philip had nothing to add to his report and there were no questions.

5c) Membership Secretary - Steph Carter

Steph updated the meeting on his report. His projection of a 1.8% decline in membership in the 2016 membership year had now changed to a 3.2% increase in membership (or 268 more members) owing to late renewals and more new joiners. **Julia Greenwood** (East Lancs) asked what were the age groups of new members. **Steph Carter** replied that it was difficult to say since so much of the age data submitted was flawed, e.g. the data might be wrong or deliberately false to avoid identity theft. **Janet Chapman** (Surrey) asked how many reminders had been sent in the current membership year. **Steph Carter** said that there were now 5,600 direct debit payers which he was keen to increase. Three reminders were normally sent out in January and February and the notification to non-payers telling them that their membership had lapsed acted as a fourth reminder. Even so 920 people had still not bothered to respond.

5d) Editor - Julie Welch

Julie was absent due to work commitments but she wished to thank John Batham and Dave Findel-Hawkins for their hard work on the Group Programmes and Events Diary, all contributors in general, Alan Castle for his work on the National Trails Register, Ken Falconer and Bryan Thorpe for the very popular crosswords and especially David Purchase who had really pulled out all the stops for the Hillwalkers' Register Annual Report.

5e) Local Groups - John Batham

John thanked all members and Group Secretaries for their work over his five years in the post. Work on the Local Groups New Model Constitution was still outstanding. The draft, sent to Group Secretaries in November 2014, was intended to replace the 1999 version. So far he had received submissions from 32 Groups with submissions promised from four Groups and outstanding from seven Groups. The latter seven Groups were Calderdale, Central and Lowlands, High Peak, Kent, Marches and The Irregulars and Sherwood. **John Batham** also said that he would recommend that his successor should continue with the Local Groups Weekend which had been suspended in 2014 but was revived in 2015 with 35 attendees and good feedback. One option for his successor to consider was whether to stage the event every other year instead of annually.

5f) Internet - Simon Leck

Simon introduced his successor, **Adam Dawson** (London), and reminded the meeting of the Internet Workshop after the Annual General Meeting. He had nothing further to add to his report and there were no questions.

5g) Events - David Findel-Hawkins

David had nothing to add to his report and there were no questions

5h) 100s Co-ordinator - David Morgan

David said that the last year had been a busy one for him and more had happened since his report. **2019 Hundred** – At the time of writing his report no Local Group had been identified to organise this event, but the National Executive Committee had subsequently ratified an application from the Northumbria Group. Northumbria will be supported by Cumbria Group. The event will be called The Hadrian Hundred and will be a circular route starting from Hexham.

David Morgan stressed that the future of the Hundred as an event depended on Local Groups coming forward.

Colin Wormald Cup – The Cup is held for a year by the organisers of each Hundred event and then passed on to the next organisers. Hilary Scott, the Chair of the 2015 Red Rose Hundred organising group, handed the Cup to three of the 2016 Dorset Hundred organisers, comprising Chris Pitt, Deirdre Flegg and Mike Childs.

5i) Long Distance Paths - Neil Rawlins

Neil was absent. **Gail Elrick** (Chair) highlighted the hard work being done by the LDPs team in maintaining, updating and extending the on-line database. A scheme was being developed to train 30 or so volunteers in using and updating the database. If the current pilot scheme to train four volunteers was successful, the scheme would be rolled out to other volunteers. She said that **Paul Lawrence** and **John Sparshatt** would be happy to answer any questions.

Tim Glenn (Anytime Anywhere) asked about the future of the *UK Trailwalker's Handbook*.

Paul Lawrence said that the *Handbook* had sold over 7,000 copies and was at the end of its print run. Producing a new edition would be a huge amount of work and would only result in a book with

frozen data. It would make more sense to focus on managing the on-line data. **Tim Glenn** felt that in principle it was important to have a new *Handbook* but could see the practical reasons against it.

Paul Lawrence thanked **Tim Glenn** and the membership team for distributing the *Handbook*.

David Allen (South Manchester) pointed out that quite a few new members have come through the LDPs database.

Guy Vowles (Wiltshire) suggested that one option to reduce the workload was to concentrate only on certain areas, e.g. waymarked paths. **Paul Lawrence** replied that many routes which were not waymarked were still used by LDWA members. **Keith Chesterton** (Surrey) had designed two routes which were not waymarked, notably the Semaphore Towers Route, which meant that it was not a good idea to ban them from the LDPs database.

Tony Willey (Lakeland) thought that the National Executive Committee should decide not to produce another *Handbook*. **Tim Glenn** agreed that it was time to make a definite decision.

5j) Environment - Christopher Hedley

Christopher gave an update on the data protection policy. The issues had been presented to the Groups attending the Local Groups Meeting in November 2015 and the other Groups were being approached for their ideas. There had been work to update the forms for challenge events since the LGs Meeting. The aim was to prepare for registration with the Information Commissioner by 2017.

Christopher Hedley had nothing to add to his report on environmental matters or risk.

5k) Publicity - David Holland

David was absent. **Gail Elrick** (Chair) said that **David Holland** was working hard on developing a publicity strategy to help take the LDWA forward. He had been in touch with Local Groups and was now contacting challenge event organisers. **Tim Glenn** thought the new LDWA poster designed by **David Holland** was creative and futuristic.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

6a) Election of Principal Officers

Barbara Blatchford (Vice-President) took the Chair and asked the meeting to vote for the post of Chair by a show of hands. She declared that **Gail Elrick**, whose post was not contested, was re-elected as Chair for the coming year. The other five Principal Officer posts were not contested and the meeting re-elected them *en bloc* by a show of hands. The following candidates were therefore declared to have been elected as Principal Officers for the coming year (2016-2017):

Position	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chair	Gail Elrick	Dave Williams	Kate Copeland
General Secretary	Phil Heneghan	Fredrik Folkestad	M. D. Willis
Treasurer	Alexander Gee	Karen Thorne	Aileen Baldwin
Membership Secretary	Steph Carter	Simon Leck	Alan Price
Editor	Julie Welch	Philip Heneghan	Jean Bowers
Internet Officer	Adam Dawson	Paul Lawrence	R. B. M. Smith

6b) Election of Executive Officers

There were seven nominations for the six Executive Officer positions, as follows;

Julie Cribb	<i>Proposer</i> Steph Carter	<i>Seconder</i> Stephen Cribb
David Findel-Hawkins	<i>Proposer</i> Gill Bunker	<i>Seconder</i> Mary Knight
Tim Glenn	<i>Proposer</i> Michael Varley	<i>Seconder</i> Jane Varley
Christopher Hedley	<i>Proposer</i> Mike Hayes	<i>Seconder</i> Douglas Robinson
David Holland	<i>Proposer</i> Hazel Bound	<i>Seconder</i> Annette Merchant
David Morgan	<i>Proposer</i> G. Jackson	<i>Seconder</i> Rob Wilkinson
Neil Rawlins	<i>Proposer</i> D. Findel-Hawkins	<i>Seconder</i> Christopher Hedley

All LDWA members had been asked to vote by proxy or in person.

Three tellers – **Ken Falconer** (Heart of Scotland), **Keith Chesterton** (Surrey) and **Reg Kingston** (East Lancs) – managed the election. **Ken Falconer** handed **Gail Elrick** (Chair) the election results in a sealed envelope. The paper therein, prepared and signed by the tellers, showed that 551 valid ballot papers (paper and electronic) had been received. The number of votes cast for each candidate was as follows:

Julie Cribb - 359 votes

David Findel-Hawkins – 434 votes

Tim Glenn – 348 votes

Christopher Hedley – 370 votes

David Holland – 393 votes

David Morgan – 415 votes

Neil Rawlins – 394 votes

The Chair declared the following six candidates were therefore declared as duly elected as Executive Officers for the coming year:

Julie Cribb

David Findel-Hawkins

Christopher Hedley

David Holland

David Morgan

Neil Rawlins

All of the above duly elected Officers were also elected as Directors of LDWA Ltd.

7. To determine the subscription for the Membership Year 2017

Sandy Gee (Treasurer) proposed that there should be no increase in the subscription rates for 2017. The motion was proposed for acceptance by **Peter Toghil** (Wessex), seconded by **Paul Lawrence** (London) and **APPROVED**.

8. Honoraria payments

The proposal for the National Executive Committee to authorise and determine honoraria payments in accordance with past practice was proposed by **John Sparshatt** (West Yorkshire), seconded by **Jill Green** (London) and **APPROVED**. **John Sparshatt** asked the National Executive Committee to consider increasing honoraria payments.

9. Any other business.

Gail Elrick (Chair) announced the recent deaths of Ernie Bishop and Barbara Williams. Ernie Bishop was a former chairman of Kent Group and the National Executive Committee. He was aged 88. His obituary will appear in 'Strider'. Barbara Williams was an active member of Bristol and West Group who produced the group's newspaper. She died of cancer and was aged in her 50s.

Katie Hunt (Norfolk and Suffolk) who had organised the weekend thanked the South Manchester Group and everyone else for coming. She said that she would organise the Annual General Meeting for one more year and was looking for someone else to take over after 2017. **Gail Elrick** (Chair) thought that she had done a fantastic job in difficult circumstances. **Peter Toghill** (Wessex) asked if she had found a venue for 2017. **Katie Hunt** replied that she had three options but it was difficult finding good value venues with good walking. **Gail Elrick** will send out a bulk e-mail once the venue is decided.

Gail Elrick introduced Julie Cribb as the new National Executive Committee member.

Janet Chapman (Surrey) said that a photo was normally taken of the handover of the Colin Wormald Cup and she offered to take one. **Gail Elrick** (Chair) agreed.

There was no other business. **Gail Elrick** (Chair) declared the Annual General Meeting closed.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 11.25 a.m.

10. OPEN FORUM AND DISCUSSION

10.1 Search and Rescue

Tony Willey (Lakeland) updated the meeting on his rôle as the LDWA representative on the Search and Rescue Inland Consultative Committee (ICC). Tony took over from Geoff Saunders as the LDWA member in 2008. The ICC is part of a Users' Forum above which is an Operator Group and a Strategic Group. In the past the ICC had done some useful work, for example, monitoring the difficulties that emergency response call centres have in using grid references rather than post codes. However, in the last year or so, key personnel had retired and the ICC had become virtually inactive. With the recent arrival of a new Chair and Secretary the ICC had met after a long hiatus but only three users had attended. The Chair had suggested distributing a questionnaire which Tony had brought along for members to complete. Meanwhile, Tony was willing to continue as the LDWA member on the ICC for about another two years to see if anything positive happens. **Dave Morgan** (South Wales) asked if SAR would levy charges in the future. **Tony Willey** replied that he did not know.

10.2 Closing Times of Early Checkpoints

Hazel Bound (Cornwall and Devon) suggested that the organisers of events of 50 miles or over should alter the closing times of early checkpoints to accommodate slower walkers. **Tim Glenn** (Anytime Anywhere) agreed and thought that this issue did not just affect 50 miles and over events. **John Stewart** (Northumbria) suggested that the 100s Co-ordinator (**Dave Morgan**) could look at the issue and prepare some guidance. **John Sparshatt** (West Yorkshire) offered to help. **John Batham** (East Yorkshire) thought that those manning checkpoints deserved some consideration, especially given the difficulties of keeping them. **Bill Milbourne** (Northumbria) said that we need to remember the nature of challenge events and we had to

consider where to draw the line before making changes. **Andrew Gilbertson** (Beds, Bucks and Northants) replied that the focus of the query was only on early checkpoints not the whole event, although **Gail Elrick** (Chair) thought there was merit in looking at events as a whole.

10.3 An Extra Edition of 'Strider'?

David Allen (South Manchester), speaking on behalf of **Richard Edgell** (South Manchester), asked if the LDWA could produce quarterly editions of 'Strider' (one per season) rather than the current three editions a year. In the absence of the Editor, **Julie Welch**, **Steph Carter** (Membership Secretary) replied that this was not possible for the two reasons given below.

First, the Editor, **Julie Welch**, is a full time journalist and spends a huge amount of her spare time preparing each edition of 'Strider'. The increase in workload for her and those others concerned with production and distribution would be untenable. **Ken Falconer** (Heart of Scotland), a previous Editor, confirmed that each edition of 'Strider' had used up almost all his spare time for three months. He added that with three editions a year he at least had a month to recover before the next edition. If we switched to four editions a year that recovery time would be gone for whoever was the Editor.

Second, there would be the extra cost of producing, printing and distributing 'Strider'. Each edition costs about £11,500 to print and over £5,000 to post which works out at £2 per member per copy. An extra 'Strider', even with the resources to do it, would add significantly to the LDWA's costs.

David Allen replied that **Richard Edgell** really wanted to be able to download future social walks and challenge events to his electronic diary without having to wait for 'Strider'. **Steph Carter** said that data on challenge events and group walks are available on the LDWA's website months before 'Strider' is published. **David Findel-Hawkins** confirmed this was the case.

Peter Toghill (Wessex) thought that having to put together three walks programmes a year was enough, whilst **Maureen Downes** (Thames Valley) suggested reducing the editions of 'Strider' to two a year. **Robert Mills** (Bristol and West) pointed out that it was easy to assume that everyone had access to the Internet but this was not the case.

10.4 Round Rotherham Event

Henry Marston (Vermuyden), who was unable to attend, had asked for a discussion of the National Executive Committee's decision to stop listing the annual 50 miles Round Rotherham Event.

Gail Elrick (Chair) outlined the issue. The Round Rotherham Event is a LDWA Hundred Miles event qualifier but is a non-LDWA event run under UK Athletics (UKA) and Trail Running Association (TRA) rules. To be listed under LDWA rules an event is not to be advertised as a race and the emphasis is to be on walking rather than jogging or running. Any event under UKA or TRA rules is considered to be a race.

Madeleine Watson (West Yorkshire) agreed that it is a race and only suitable for fast walkers, but thought that many of the runners who take part could be prospective future members of the LDWA. **Janet Chapman** (Surrey) said that runners tended to enter LDWA events early because they were cheap but they didn't turn up, whilst walkers found they could not get in. **John Batham** (East Yorkshire) reinforced **Janet Chapman's** comments. **John Sparshatt** (West Yorkshire) asked whether exclusion from being listed by the LDWA affected the event's status as a LDWA 100 miles qualifier. **David Morgan** (Hundreds Co-ordinator) replied that this depended on the organisers of each Hundred. **Jill Green** (London) said that although the Round Rotherham Event was a race and outside of LDWA event rules, she had managed to do the distance as a walker. She had similarly done the Salisbury 5-4-3-2-1 race as a walker, although this event, whilst also run under UKA rules, charges different entry prices for runners and walkers with a choice of distances. **Keith Chesterton** (Surrey) thought the LDWA should stop being prescriptive and treat runners as a potential source of

recruitment. **Andrew Gilbertson** (Beds, Bucks and Northants) said that walkers on the Round Rotherham event would not treat it as a race. **Gail Elrick** (Chair) thanked the meeting for the comments and said that she would take the matter back to the National Executive Committee.

10.5 Quiz Night

Norman Corrin (Beds, Bucks and Northants) announced the results of the quiz. He had the answers to the section on LDWA Group logos.

The Open Forum and Discussion closed at 12.10 p.m.

11. Gail Elrick (Chair) thanked:

- * **Katie Hunt**, the organiser of the weekend, and **Malcolm Hunt** for his support (both Norfolk and Suffolk).
- * The walk leaders and members of the South Manchester Group for organising and leading the walks and the trip on Saturday.
- * The three tellers – **Ken Falconer** (Heart of Scotland), **Keith Chesterton** (Surrey) and **Reg Kingston** (East Lancs) – who managed the election.
- * Those officers who were retiring from the National Executive Committee.
- * **The quiz team – Norman Corrin and Steve Smith** (both Beds, Bucks and Northants) and **Duncan Smith** (South Manchester).
- * **Andrew McCloy**, the Saturday evening speaker.
- * The hotel staff for their service.
- * Everyone for coming.

12. Vice-President's Address

Barbara Blatchford (Surrey) offered a vote of thanks to the National Executive Committee. Referring to Saturday evening's talk she noted that the edition of 'Strider' on the Pennine Way in 1974 was a table top publication but times had changed.

National Executive Committee 2016-17:

Chair	Gail Elrick	Executive Officers (6):	Julie Cribb
General Secretary	Philip Heneghan		David Findel-Hawkins
Treasurer	Alexander Gee		Christopher Hedley
Membership Secretary	Steph Carter		David Holland
Editor	Julie Welch		David Morgan
Internet Officer	Adam Dawson		Neil Rawlins

Minutes by John Elrick

Signed:
(Gail Elrick, Chair)

Date: 12th March 2017

NAMES OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE 2016 LDWA AGM (122 names):

Gillian Aitkin	Peter Cowlyn	Paul Hatcher	Chris Seddon
Avril Allen	Julie Cribb	Christopher Hedley	Geoff Smith
David Allen	Stephen Cribb	Phil Heneghan	Graham Smith
Barbara Appleby	Adrian Crocker	Frank Hodson	Pearl Smith
David Appleby	David Crompton	Gillian Howe	Steve Smith
Linda Ashwell	Adam Dawson	Anushka Howell	John Sparshatt
Penny Baldwin	Richard Denby	Dennis Jacobs	John Sreeves
John Barker	Maureen Downes	Alex King	Malcolm Stephenson
John Batham	Norman Elliott	Merrian Lancaster	John Stewart
Ian Beveridge	Gail Elrick	Paul Lawrence	Chris Stockon
Jenny Beveridge	John Elrick	Simon Leck	Peter Toghill
Barbara Blatchford	Ben Evens	Bill Milbourne	Jane Varley
Sue Boardman	Isobel Falconer	Bob Mills	Mary Varley
Jean Bobker	Ken Falconer	Jennifer Mills	Mike Varley
Barry Boddy	Dave Findel-Hawkins	Joy Mills	Guy Vowles
Hazel Bound	Deirdre Flegg	Edith Moran	Alison Wadsworth
Terry Bound	John Fleming	David Morgan	Paul Wadsworth
Chris Brown	Daphne Forrest	Rosie Nelstrop	Susanne Waldschmidt
Glenis Brown	Peter Forrest	Enid Parr	Caroline Wandless
Julie Brownhill	Sandy Gee	Jeff Parr	Roger Wandless
Mike Buckley	Andrew Gilbertson	Paula Pickersgill	Ralph Warman
Steph Carter	Tim Glenn	Chris Pitt	Madeleine Watson
Jim Catchpole	John Glynn	Brian Pitts	Nigel West
Helen Cavanagh	Michael Godfrey	Jenny Reed	Hilary Whitlam
Laura Channon	Peter Grayson	Tony Reed	John Whitlam
Janet Chapman	Jill Green	Tony Rowley	Jill Wilkins
Keith Chesterton	Julia Greenwood	Sandra Rushton	Susan Wilkinson
Mike Childs	Jane Guest	Ian Sage	Tony Willey
Steve Clark	Peter Hands	Patricia Sage	Cyril Williams
Andrew Collinson	Lynne Harness	Ann Sayer	Norman Corrin
Mary Hatcher	Hilary Scott		

Agenda Item 3

Financial Report

for the year ending 30th September 2016

The finances of the LDWA are sound and in line with expectations with a healthy but reduced surplus after tax of £10,013 achieved compared to a surplus of £14,853 in the previous year. A lesser surplus is expected in the current year with increased costs are expected, for example on website development.

Overall turnover was up £2,906. Within that, membership subscriptions increased by £4,925, (£7,146 previous year), and Handbook sales were down as supplies finally ran out. Administrative expenses increased by 13% to £7,177 with a number of items higher than planned, with the return of the local group weekend and increase in donations to good causes impacting.

LDWA's assets at the financial year end stood at £145,283. As advised last year, the investment has been moved from Santander who offered a poor return versus competitors, so it was closed. An increased deposit, £75,000, was made with another provider, Hampshire Trust Bank, which offered a more competitive rate. It remains a challenge to achieve useful interest, and the investment is being rolled over for 2017/8, albeit at a decreased rate. The total assets approximate to one year's membership subscriptions – 118% compared to 114% in 2015. As previously advised, in my opinion the assets / subscription income ratio should be kept over 100% as a sensible minimum reserve to give some comfort that unforeseen eventualities can be faced so no significant reduction of assets is planned.

There remains no need to consider an increase in subscriptions in the near future.

Sandy Gee
Treasurer

**Report of the Directors and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2016
for The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited**

The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited

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The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited

Company Information for the Year Ended 30th September 2016

DIRECTORS:	Mrs A Elrick Mr P J Heneghan Ms J M Welch Mr D Findel-Hawkins Mr S Carter Mr A P Gee Mr J C W Hedley Mr D Holland Mr N C Rawlins Mr D G Morgan Mr A J Dawson Mrs J R Cribb
SECRETARY:	Mr P J Heneghan
REGISTERED OFFICE:	Bellevue Princes Street Ulverston Cumbria LA12 7NB
REGISTERED NUMBER:	03719756 (England and Wales)
ACCOUNTANTS:	R F Miller & Co Chartered Accountants Bellevue, Princes Street Ulverston Cumbria LA12 7NB

The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited

Report of the Directors for the Year Ended 30th September 2016

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 30th September 2016.

DIRECTORS

The directors shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1st October 2015 to the date of this report.

Mrs A Elrick
Mr P J Heneghan
Ms J M Welch
Mr D Findel-Hawkins
Mr S Carter
Mr A P Gee
Mr J C W Hedley
Mr D Holland
Mr N C Rawlins
Mr D G Morgan

Other changes in directors holding office are as follows:

Mr J Batham - resigned 13 March 2016
Mr S Leck - resigned 13 March 2016
Mr A J Dawson - appointed 13 March 2016
Mrs J R Cribb - appointed 13 March 2016

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

.....
Mr P J Heneghan - Secretary

Date: 28th January 2017

The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30th September 2016

	Notes	2016 £	2015 £
TURNOVER		132,086	129,180
Cost of sales		<u>59,532</u>	<u>58,805</u>
GROSS SURPLUS		72,554	70,375
Administrative expenses		<u>63,284</u>	<u>55,856</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS	2	9,270	14,519
Interest receivable and similar income		<u>1,131</u>	<u>695</u>
SURPLUS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		10,401	15,214
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities	3	<u>388</u>	<u>361</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u><u>10,013</u></u>	<u><u>14,853</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited (Registered number: 03719756)

Balance Sheet 30th September 2016

	Notes	2016 £	2015 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks		190	1,052
Debtors	5	5,270	6,657
Investments	6	76,072	57,374
Cash at bank		<u>97,616</u>	<u>102,559</u>
		179,148	167,642
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>33,865</u>	<u>32,372</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>145,283</u>	<u>135,270</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		<u>145,283</u>	<u>135,270</u>
RESERVES			
Income and expenditure account	8	<u>145,283</u>	<u>135,270</u>
		<u>145,283</u>	<u>135,270</u>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30th September 2016.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2016 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 28th January 2017 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr A P Gee - Director

.....
Mrs A Elrick - Director

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30th September 2016

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

Turnover

Turnover represents net invoiced sales of goods, excluding value added tax.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

2. OPERATING SURPLUS

The operating surplus is stated after charging:

	2016	2015
	£	£
Directors' remuneration	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

3. TAXATION

Analysis of the tax charge

The tax charge on the surplus on ordinary activities for the year was as follows:

	2016	2015
	£	£
Current tax:		
UK corporation tax	388	361
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities	388	361
	<u>388</u>	<u>361</u>

4. COMPANY STATUS

The company is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each member is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the company in the event of liquidation.

5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2016	2015
	£	£
Other debtors	-	160
Prepayments and accrued income	3,684	6,497
Prepayments	1,586	-
	<u>5,270</u>	<u>6,657</u>

6. CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2016	2015
	£	£
Unlisted investments	76,072	57,374
	<u>76,072</u>	<u>57,374</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 30th September 2016

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2016	2015
	£	£
Tax	388	361
Accruals and deferred income	<u>33,477</u>	<u>32,011</u>
	<u>33,865</u>	<u>32,372</u>

8. RESERVES

	Income and expenditure account £
At 1st October 2015	135,270
Surplus for the year	<u>10,013</u>
At 30th September 2016	<u>145,283</u>

**Chartered Accountants' Report to the Board of Directors
on the Unaudited Financial Statements of
The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited**

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the financial statements of The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited for the year ended 30 September 2016 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed within the ICAEW's regulations and guidance at icaew.com/membershandbook.

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited, as a body, in accordance with our terms of engagement. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial statements of The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the Board of Directors of The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited, as a body, in this report in accordance with icaew.com/compilation. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited Board of Directors, as a body, for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory financial statements that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit of The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited. You consider that The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory financial statements.

R F Miller & Co
Chartered Accountants
Bellevue
Princes Street
Ulverston
Cumbria
LA12 7NB

Date: 28th January 2017

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

**Detailed Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30th September 2016
for The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited**

The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30th September 2016

		2016		2015	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
TURNOVER	1		132,086		129,180
Cost of sales	2		<u>59,532</u>		<u>58,805</u>
GROSS SURPLUS			72,554		70,3759
Administrative expenses	3	61,423		54,246	
Finance costs	4	<u>1,861</u>		<u>1,610</u>	
			<u>63,284</u>		<u>55,856</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS			9,270		14,519
Finance income	5		<u>1,131</u>		<u>695</u>
SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION			<u><u>10,401</u></u>		<u><u>15,214</u></u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30th September 2016

	2016 £	2015 £
1. TURNOVER		
Subscriptions - ordinary	123,198	118,273
Donations	163	884
Handbook royalties	704	1,166
Merchandising sales	2,520	2,740
Hillwalkers' Register	172	198
Commissions receivable	826	911
Handbook sales	3,238	4,863
LGWE Group Contributions	1,260	-
Track files	5	145
	<u>132,086</u>	<u>129,180</u>
2. COST OF SALES		
Opening stock	1,052	1,440
Purchases - Merchandise	2,680	2,420
Purchases - Books	1,514	2,944
Strider costs - production	33,971	34,305
Strider costs - despatch	16,409	15,012
Strider costs - calendar	4,096	3,736
	<u>59,722</u>	<u>59,857</u>
Less:		
Closing stock	<u>190</u>	<u>1,052</u>
	<u>59,532</u>	<u>58,805</u>
3. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Honoraria	3,000	6,000
Publicity	1,124	-
Licences and insurance	7,832	8,048
Hillwalkers' Register expenses	2,415	2,186
Committee costs	10,884	8,216
Local group meetings	4,459	-
AGM	3,422	3,341
Membership	9,992	9,891
Website costs	13,715	13,249
Sundry expenses	173	-
Trade subscriptions	871	823
Accountancy	1,986	1,892
Donations	1,550	600
	<u>61,423</u>	<u>54,246</u>
4. FINANCE COSTS		
Bank charges	<u>1,861</u>	<u>1,610</u>
5. FINANCE INCOME		
Deposit account interest	<u>1,131</u>	<u>695</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Agenda Item 5(1)

National Committee Reports

Chair's Report 2017

Composition of the 2016 NEC

The 2016 NEC Committee has contained two new faces, both new to the NEC but with a good grounding in volunteering at a local level. Adam Dawson became the new Website and Internet Officer and Julie Cribb was elected in the ballot for Executive Officers to fill the job of Local Groups Secretary. All of the 2015 Principal Officers standing for re-election were returned unopposed but all Executive Officer posts were subject to a ballot. There is a range of background and experiences within the Committee which makes for a healthy debate!

How has the year gone?

At the time of writing the year appears to have gone quite well with no major upsets. As I mentioned in my report last year we are fortunate that the organisation continues to be run by an efficient and effective band of volunteers.

Please read the contributions from the Committee to see the diverse range of tasks and activities that have been undertaken. There are of course many other volunteers working for the organisation who are not mentioned. Three members who report regularly to the NEC are Jane Williams, Katie Hunt and Tim Glenn. Jane has been responsible for developing Twitter and other Social Media sites and has been a great help to the Committee. Katie has successfully organised three AGMs and is now standing down. Tim Glenn organises Merchandise, and an update from him is included under Agenda Item 5(2).

However we have lost a number of good friends and tireless workers for the LDWA. At the last AGM I was asked to announce the death of Ernie Bishop and we have had a whole cluster of obituaries in Strider. It worries me that the many LDWA members who work so hard on events and in the Local Groups will at some point decide to retire and I do not see many younger replacements coming forward. This is one of the main reasons that I think we need a Business Plan (more on this below).

What did we do?

All of the key areas for development that I mentioned in my report last year remain important. These include:

- **Communications.** Maintaining and improving good communications within the organisation remains a focus within the National Committee. I hope that our increased use of bulk e-mails has been useful and not too intrusive! Julie C is very keen to improve communication with Local Groups. I hope that those who attended the Local Groups Meeting found the more participative nature of the weekend useful. We keep trying to improve but of course communication needs to be two way and we rely on you the members keeping in touch.

Adam has worked hard during the year to improve the operation of the web site and we will be looking to see how the site can best meet the long term needs of the LDWA. Similarly we are aware that Social Media is increasingly important as the way many people now communicate and this remains a high priority for development. I think we also now need to consider how we communicate with outside organisations, particularly those with common interests.

- **Long Distance Paths Database.** The long term future of the LDPs database continues to cause concern. Although it continues to provide a good and popular service it remains difficult to keep the content up to date and although more volunteers have been trained and recruited to assist this is obviously not a long term solution. Various strategies have been investigated and discussed at the NEC and local level and work continues.

- **Publicity.** I reported that the Publicity Officer had been working on a Publicity Strategy. This is ongoing but as a first step we decided to provide new publicity materials for local groups and events to use. A particular target is challenge events and 'persuading' non LDWA entrants to join the LDWA. Much of the work undertaken in this review is proving very useful in the development of the Business Plan..

The coming year

For me the priority must be the development of a Business Plan to provide some structure to the work we are doing. I have mentioned several of the pertinent issues already. Others include:

- how well do we achieve our current aims and objectives
- how far should we adopt a more strategic role
- how well do we govern ourselves and new methods of working
- development of our volunteer force

Finally. I wish to say many thanks to the two departing members of the members of the National Committee. They are Julie Welch, Strider Editor for the second time, quite an achievement, and Phil Heneghan, General Secretary. Thank you for your hard work and enthusiasm. Many thanks also to Katie Hunt for organising this event so efficiently. We are all sorry that you are standing down and good wishes for the future.

Gail Elrick, Chair

General Secretary's Report

AS stated in previous years, a lot of the work of the General Secretary is responding to requests for information and advice from members and others interested in walking. I would like to repeat my appreciation to the other Committee members in helping me fulfil this role.

As a result of correspondence regarding walking articles in Wikipedia, it became apparent that the LDWA did not have any protected rights for the Walking Man logo. We therefore filed an application for trade mark status on behalf of the Association, which has now been received, enabling us to ensure the proper use of the symbol.

Following last year's NEC election under the new Bylaw, it became clear that the existing Memorandum of Association for the LDWA and its associated Articles have accumulated a number of anomalies and inconsistencies which give rise to problems in the timing of related announcements. In addition, the present version was not written in accordance with the 2006 Companies Act, which takes precedence over the Articles in a number of clauses. It is anticipated that a revised version will be tabled for consideration during 2018, with the option of a motion for adoption at the next AGM.

This being the final year of my term, I would like to thank the membership for its forbearance, and hope you will give my successor the same level of assistance and co-operation that I have enjoyed over the last five years.

Phil Heneghan

Membership Secretary's Report

2016 end of Membership Joining Year stats

- At 30th September (end of 2016 membership year for new joiners). Membership totalled 8706. This is 323 (3.85%) higher than the previous year.
- With 1349 Family memberships (each with 2 votes) the number of voting members exceeded 10000 for the first time.
- Last number issued 40328
- Individual new Joiners in 2016 joining year: 1376, of which 564 (41%) female (2015 37.5%).
This is the first time we have exceeded 40% of female new joiners in a membership year and continues the trend towards parity of joiners' gender.

Splitting Family Members

The upgrade to the LDWA membership system which allows individuals within family memberships to have their own personal records and log on was successfully achieved on 19th September.

The upgrade has gone well, with only a handful of individuals experiencing problems- all quickly resolved. Thanks to Adam Dawson and Mark Hawker for managing the IT side so well, and to Julie Cribb for managing the communication with the group secretaries. We all put in a lot of work upfront testing, trouble shooting and communicating to members and it has paid off.

Family Members were set to get 2 membership cards with December 2016 *Strider*, but unfortunately after agreeing this could be done, confirming the additional cost of doing so, and receiving instruction to include a second card for family memberships, the printer's dispatcher omitted to include the extra card to 983 Family Members that pay by Direct Debit. This was redressed by sending all family members a second card in the post at the dispatcher's expense.

Reducing future workload despite membership growth.

My persistent and confrontational appeals to get members to switch to Direct Debit may not be popular with some, but they are proving successful.

30th September 2013: **7459** members, of which **4199** paid by DD (56.3%)
30th September 2014: **7984** members, of which **4548** paid by DD (56.9%)
30th September 2015: **8383** members, of which **5179** paid by DD (61.8%)
30th September 2016: **8706** members, of which **5692** paid by DD (65.3%)

While membership has grown by 1247 in that time, the number of DD payers has grown 1493, meaning that, despite the growth, there are now 246 **less** members that do not pay by DD. This reduces the work involved in future renewals.

The 2017 'please convert to Direct Debit' appeal is also proving successful, with in excess of 5900 members now paying this way (as of 29th December 2016).

2017 Early Statistics and Discourteous Leavers

It is impossible to estimate how 2017 membership is looking until the renewal period is over on March 1st (I will therefore update at the AGM). Until then any total we have are made up of new joiners, renewed members, and yet to renew members. We simply do not know how many of the yet to renew members will renew, and how many will not, so we cannot predict our membership. Once March 1st comes, those not renewed are assumed to have left, and only then can we accurately predict our annual membership.

It is a cause of frustration to me as Membership Secretary that, in each year of my tenure to date, despite 4 reminders to un-renewed members, each asking that if the member is not going to renew then to let me know they are leaving, that about 850 leaving members do not have the courtesy to communicate their departure.

Support

My thanks, as always, to Jan Chapman, who continues to provide invaluable support. She prepares and posts in excess of 1000 welcome packs to new members, plus numerous *Striders* to late renewing or re-joining members, each year.

In Summary

2016 has been a good year for LDWA membership- with steady and manageable growth, driven in part by increasing numbers of female joiners.

The upgrade to the membership system allowing each member within a family to have their own log-on, and independent choice of local groups and communication preferences has gone well, and the failure to deliver 2 membership cards to many family members with *Striders* was corrected satisfactorily and at no cost to the LDWA.

Continued progress has been made in converting members to Direct Debit, which is essential long term to allow the LDWA to continue to be volunteer run,

Steph Carter (Membership Secretary)

Editor's Report

I know it's a cliché, but time really does seem to fly. Surely it can't have been five years since I was delightedly taking over one of the best jobs in the world, that of *Strider* editor. But yes, I'm afraid it has been five years, and I have enjoyed every moment. As ever, I'm enormously grateful to all those members who have contributed in the last year – without their efforts, written and photographic, there would be no *Strider*. Particular thanks go to Dave Findel-Hawkins and Julie Cribb for providing the Events Diary and Group News, to our columnists Tara Williams, Tim Glenn and Roger Edwards, and to Paul Lawrence, John Sparshatt and Neil Rawlins for News of Long Distance Paths. Thank you, too, Ken Falconer, for the crosswords, which maintain their tremendous following, and David Purchase and Alan Castle for your efforts in putting together the Hillwalkers' Annual Report and the National Trails Report. Once again, too, I must acknowledge the work of Steph Carter, who does such an excellent job of supervising distribution, and all our Walks Secretaries who painstakingly compile the programmes which fill the back of *Strider* and are a delight just to read, let alone take part in.

Finally, it is a real pleasure to hand over the Editorship to Graham Smith, who many of you will know for his long-standing contribution to the running of Kent Group and his many Hundred completions. Our much-loved magazine will be in the best of hands.

Julie Welch

Local Groups Report

It has been good to get to grips with the role of Local Groups' Secretary over the last year and to put so many more names to faces, meet a lot more people and make new friends.

When I first stood for the role of Local Groups' Secretary, I thought there were three main strands to my role, all focussing on communications. These were being a link between the Groups and individual members and the wider public; to be a link between the Groups themselves; and to be a conduit between the Groups and the NEC. Indeed, most of the work to date has been very much within these key areas.

In relation to the NEC-Local Group link it has been a busy year making great strides forward (pun intended) on several fronts, working with the Membership Secretary, Publicity Officer, Long Distance Paths Co-ordinator, *Strider* Editor and Social Media Officer among others. Streamlining and coordinating communications to and feedback from Local Groups has been a valuable way of identifying the right people to talk to across the network and ensuring that the messages get through. We have had some help from our Internet Officer in getting this right too.

The Local Groups' Weekend, held in November at Stratford-on-Avon was again a valuable means of enabling communications between the Groups who were represented. A number of interesting and important issues were raised and discussed. These included First Aid Training, use of the SiEntries system, handling runners on events, 'Border' walks, membership participation and volunteers, Long Distance Paths, Data Protection, Rules for the LDWA 100s, income and finance, National Parks and charging, Rights of Way and Definitive Paths 2026, marketing and exhibition materials, links with other associations and Social Media. Our Chair also outlined the forthcoming process for developing the LDWA Business Plan and we had a demonstration of the PACER system. The full delegate pack with the report of the weekend has been sent to all Group Secretaries and is available on the website. The 2017 weekend is booked for 10-12 November with exclusive use of the Hawes YHA. Planning for this will begin soon after the AGM.

Finally, communications with members and the wider public continues to be mainly by means of our excellent publication *Strider*. Working with the Editor we have been looking at how Group news and information is presented to have a wider appeal not only for Group Officers and members, but also for anyone interested in long distance walking to want to know more about us and hopefully join. In the coming year I anticipate much more happening in the field of Social Media to take our message to a wider audience following some very positive discussions at the Local Groups' Weekend.

All of this has occurred against the backdrop of around 1,500 social walks, organised by the local Groups, which have taken place on every day of the week, daytime and evening, over a wide variety of distances, and now across almost all of England, Wales and Scotland!

This is an exciting time to be part of the LDWA and I am looking forward to working with you all in the year ahead.

Julie Cribb Local Groups' Secretary

Publicity Report

When I first took up the post of Publicity Officer two years ago there was no real job to walk into. For some years publicity had been undertaken on an ad hoc basis.

The first year was largely taken up by establishing Publicity Policy and planning the way forward. This second year I have implemented the strategy and policy adopted. The following briefly describes what I have done and am currently undertaking.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL: A complete new suite of promotional material was needed. This has been designed and printed.

POSTERS: A completely new poster has been designed, informative about the activities of the LDWA but not with information that will quickly become outdated.
Current stock A3 size 600. A0 size 45.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM: Redesigned and reprinted. Current stock 2500.

BUSINESS CARDS: Very popular. Current stock only about 400. Needs reprinting.

CHALLENGE WALKS: All Challenge Walk organisers are contacted and promotional material offered.

PUBLICITY FOR LOCAL GROUPS: A document has been prepared and issued to all Local Groups.

SOCIAL MEDIA: We are very active on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Our thanks to Jane Williams and Sarah Unsworth for undertaking this for us. My role is general liaison between them.

VIDEO: Being planned. For general promotional use.

INCIDENTAL OPPORTUNITIES AND COLLABORATION: Opportunities occur. They are progressed as found best. Most come to nothing but occasionally are very good such as a complete page in TGO magazine on LDWA Challenge Walks. At nil cost to us!

In the future?

All the above I will continue to do. Before I can plan further publicity I need direction as to what we wish it to achieve. This is currently being discussed in Committee. Once agreed I will do my best to action as quickly as I can.

David Holland LDWA Publicity Officer

LDWA National IT and Internet Officer Report

Since taking over the IT role from Simon Leck at the 2016 AGM, it has been a busy year for the IT team. Simon left our systems in excellent shape, and the year has been about progressing the initiatives started under his tenure, as well as kicking off new projects as the need and opportunity arose.

The key accomplishments of the year have been:

- Successfully handing over the National IT and Internet Officer role in March, with no interruptions in service.
- Developing new functionality (walk location maps, social media integration, publication of bulk emails) for Local Groups, enhancing their appeal to Local Group members.
- “Splitting” family membership, so every member of a family group can have their own individual login to LDWA online services, and can configure settings to meet their specific needs.
- Migrating our online services to a faster, bigger web-server, at no additional cost and with only a 3 hour downtime.
- Updating and modernising the code behind the website functionality, making it easier to use and maintain, and more robust.
- Throughout the year, as needed, enhancing website functionality and administration to meet the needs of the Membership Secretary and the Long Distance Paths (LDPs) team.
- Implementing new online mapping for LDPs and challenge walks, bringing in much clearer 1:25,000-like maps on the national website.
- Resolving persistent e-mail problems which were causing certain internet service providers to treat our bulk emails as spam and reject them.
- Developing, testing, refining and launching a new electronic events management system – PACER (for “Participant Activity Control for Events and Results”) for use at LDWA challenge events.
- Rolling out a new electronic voting system, successfully used for the recent election of the General Secretary.
- Building a new logging system for assessing IT priorities, enabling the work programme to be managed through the year, and budget forecasts to be produced more accurately.
- Re-shaping the Internet Sub Committee, to produce smaller subgroups focusing on LDPs, PACER and web structure separately, rather than rolling all into a single meeting, and holding the meetings by teleconference rather than face to face, to save time and money.

Looking forward to the rest of 2017 and onwards into 2018, the main challenge will be managing a seamless transfer of our IT support arrangements to a proposed new service provider, whilst potentially also implementing a new look and feel to our public facing website.

The smooth running of the LDWA IT infrastructure depends to a large extent on enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers who help to develop and refine new functionality, and ensure that what we already have in place meets the needs of our members – current and prospective. If you'd like to get involved in helping to shape this important aspect of the LDWA's public face, please don't hesitate to drop me a line or come along to the internet face-to-face session which will be held at the 2017 AGM.

You can contact me by email at internet@ldwa.org.uk

Adam Dawson

Events Report

Looking back at my report for the 2016 AGM I was amazed at how much I could have repeated this year. So if you think you have seen some of this before, you probably have.

In 2016 there were a total of 155 events listed in our Events Diary. This compares to 174 in 2015. Four events listed in the 2016 calendar didn't take place compared to two in 2015. So the actual number of events is down to 151 from 172, a loss of 21 events.

Good news is that there were eight new events, Pengwern Perambulation, South Pennine 24, Lisa Lowe Appeal Walk, Rotary Across Wales, Moray Way 5 Day Challenge, Five Valleys Walk, Winchcombe Way and Bude Beast. We also welcomed back The Fellsman, Capabilities Overview, Hills & Dales, Bassetlaw Bash and Four Lakeland Passes. We gain an event when the White Cliffs isn't the fifty mile KSS triple event, as a shorter version still takes place.

Part of the decline is due to a more rigorous approach to the LDWA rules for listings. This accounts for eight events that have more than 500 entrants, require entrants to raise sponsorship or are races. There were two events that in 2016 no longer accepted walkers on distances over 20 miles. There was one event I know took place but it didn't provide details, and four I heard nothing from and can find no details, so assume that they didn't take place.

The ten lost events I know about were Beacon Bash, Lakeland Derwent Water Amble, Black Brook, Trollers Trot, Whitby Lions Lyke Wake Walk, Sterne Encounters, Gritstone Charity Walk, Crosses 53, Dartmoor Reservoir Kanter and C3PO.

Missing in 2016 but probably will/have returned are Winter Poppyline, Harvest Hobble, Mountain Trail Challenge, Where Eagles Dare, Llangollen Round, Cerne Giant and Stanstead Stagger.

So the actual net loss is probably only five events. Should the LDWA be worried? My original thought was yes as I was already aware of a number of events not taking place in 2017. However, as the end of 2016 approached, I've become aware of a number of new events either already in the calendar or planned. So it's probably too early to panic.

Of the 155, 68 were organised by LDWA local groups against 71 in 2015. Of the 43 local groups, 36 put on at least one challenge event. Well done to South Pennine & North West Grampian for organizing their first ever Challenge Events. Another new event was Bude Beast from Cornwall & Devon. All much appreciated by those taking part, already in the calendar for 2017 and hopefully continuing for years to come. Pengwern Perambulation took place in 2016 under the Marches group banner but looks like being a one off. Mention should be made of South Wales putting on Taith Torfaen in place of the Dorset Giant. A tough 52 miles but in much better weather than for the Valleys 100 so those taking place could enjoy the views.

I must thank those local groups who maintain their own Challenge event details. It reduces my workload considerably. I think some are not aware there is a copy function to make this task quite simple if details are basically the same.

Once again a number of events reached their entry limit. I know of at least 18 in 2016, but there were more, as not everyone tells me or updates the details themselves. If your event gets full then please update your entry on the LDWA Challenge event pages or ask me to do it.

The current trend appears to be that there are more than 20% no shows for events. For those events that operate a waiting list once they fill up, this is most annoying. If you have to withdraw from an event please let the organisers know. It doesn't take much to fire off an email and it may let someone else take part.

Strider contains details of all the events in the next eight months that are on the website. That gives all events a chance of appearing in two issues of *Strider*. Some events still don't make any issues of *Strider* as they do not get their details to me before the *Strider* deadline.

However, the details do go on the website. I'm glad to say this doesn't apply to events organised by LDWA local groups.

More and more events are changing their details after *Strider* has gone to press. These changes appear on our website but not everyone thinks to check for updates. Controversial as it will appear it maybe is time to consider that only the Calendar of Events is printed in *Strider*, and the details are obtained from the website.

It will come as a surprise to some that I do not organise all the events listed in *Strider*. I know this to be the case from some of the emails I receive asking me if I've received their entry, whether it's too late to enter or even if I can supply a list of events they have done.

Dave Findel-Hawkins

Hundreds Co-ordinator Report

2017 '100'

The 2017 North Yorkshire Moors 100 will soon be upon us and I can report that the organising committee have planned very well. The event did not require to invoke the ballot and I am sure that we will enjoy a wonderful weekend in May.

2018 '100'

The 2018 Cinque Ports is moving forward well and finishing touches are being put to the plans created by the Kent Group.

2019 '100'

The Hadrian Hundred in 2019 has a very experienced committee and the challenges that have been experienced with regards to Northumbria National Park Authority, Pennine Way and Hadrian's Wall National Trail have been considerable. As I type this report, Ian Lauriston and key members of his committee will be attending a meeting in January with several key stakeholders in order to discuss, reassure and ensure that our event will go ahead with their support. Ian and his team have had to work hard to get to this position due to the position taken by influential individuals in certain organisations. Many of the issues have been taken up by the NEC as part of the new business plan that Gail is leading on and relate to the explosion of organised challenge events for profitable / charitable purposes. The aim of the NEC is to clarify the position with respect to charging, particularly to ensure that our events, which are run by members for members, are not unfairly penalised by being regarded as commercial ventures.

2020 '100'

The South Wales group will organise the 2020 '100'. This is my group and I advised the NEC that there would be a conflict of interest due to my being involved in the organisation of the event and the independent oversight from the NEC perspective.

This issue has been resolved and David Findel-Hawkins will act on behalf of the NEC to ensure that the event progresses as expected.

The event will be based on the county of Monmouthshire. This is a county that is very diverse and oft overlooked by visitors to Wales. The route will visit the Black Mountains, use Offa's Dyke National Trail, head south through the Wye Valley to visit the Norman town of Chepstow. The Wales Coast Path will be followed to Rogiet and then the route will head to Usk via the ancient forest of Wentwood. Finally, the Usk Valley Walk will be used to visit Abergavenny. The hope is to use Abergavenny as the walk base, but as this report is typed, these details have not been finalised.

The route statistics indicate that the distance will be between 101 and 103 miles with 14,500 feet of climbing.

2021 '100'

I am hopeful that by the time you read this report, that I have been able to announce which group will be organising the 2021 '100'. Discussions are being held and I am confident that the event will be held in the north England.

Future 100s

I urge local groups to consider whether they have the desire and enthusiasm to see the annual 100 mile walk come to their area. Until about four months ago, I was beginning to despair that members actually wanted to get involved in the event's organisation. I could simply sign off now and say that as I appear to have volunteers taking our association to 2021, that I could rest on my laurels, say I've done my bit and walk away! But, the reality is very different!

The local groups are the lifeblood of our association and without the local groups, challenge walks and our 100 in particular will not be organised. I recognise that our association has two key strands. Those members who love attending challenge walks, and those members who like walking socially AND participating in and organising challenge walks.

But, for the 100 to continue, then local groups need to be supported in order that they in turn can support the 100 infrastructure, whether that is through actually organising the event or whether it is because the group runs a checkpoint. That, in my personal opinion, means members actually going out with their local groups and getting involved in local events and in turn being involved in assisting with the running of their local group. Because, if our local groups don't want to volunteer to organise our annual flagship event, then we may have to consider 'out-sourcing' the event in order to ensure that it survives. This approach will certainly see the cost of the event rise and may actually see less support. But, if we wish to see the 100 continue in the future, it is an option that must be explored, no matter how distasteful this possibility is to our members.

Another option that we might need to consider is forming a '100 committee' of willing volunteers and to organise the same route and the same checkpoints year after year. Many groups organise their own challenge events every year and often just dust off what they did the year before. Perhaps this is what we need to consider going forward if volunteer groups do not step forward.

Much scaremongering takes place on the amount of work to organise the event. I accept that we all want to do the best that we can, but we need to be realistic on what type of event we can produce. That is why so much work has taken place to standardise aspects of the event in the last 18 months. The 2020 '100' will be utilising the standardised approach as much as possible to keep things simple.

Role profiles have been written to guide people on what to do. Menus and quantities of what to order have been designed, tally cards with barcodes are now available (thanks to Chris Pitt), checkpoint opening and closing calculators have been designed (this was an action for me to complete at the 2016 AGM – thank you to Andrew Clabon) plus many other tools to enable volunteers to keep our flagship event going.

I welcome the thoughts of our members with regards to the long term health of our annual '100'.

The 100 Rules

In the summer, Gail Elrick, Dave Findel-Hawkins and I met to discuss the viability of the 100 rules following a couple of incidents that had caused us concern. This concern was exacerbated when we learned of a tragic incident that had led to the death of an entrant on an event run by a similar organisation to the LDWA. It was clear that we needed to 'tighten up' aspects of the rules and ensure that we were able to outline the organisers' 'Duty of Care' but to also remind entrants that they had a duty too.

Following a further meeting with an independent individual who has expertise on outdoor activity litigation and risk, the new rules were considered fit for purpose and ready for use. They are to be used in conjunction with a Risk Assessment that has been re-written to meet the needs of the '100' event and now forms part of the 'standardised' paperwork.

On-Line Shop

I have now been advised by the Internet Sub Committee (ISC) that this work is very difficult to bring together and so the idea of an on-line shop for future 100's has been shelved.

Forum

The ISC have said that this work is possible and will be addressing this when time allows. Watch this space!

Event Management System

The Event Management System is now known as PACER (Participant Activity Control for Events and Results).

Adam Dawson took this work from me when he was elected to the NEC and will update you on the magnificent work he and his team have done to take PACER to where it is now.

I am so pleased to see that this wonderful software is now available for all local groups to use free of charge.

100 Recorder

The work identified by Keith Warman has still not been done but the ISC is aware and work has now commenced on transferring the data held to the central server. One of the key issues that was identified was the need to fully comply with the Data Protection Act. In line with the new declaration that entrants are required to sign on applying to participate in the event, it was clear that some people would have to have their records of achievement removed as they had previously indicated that they did not want their details held on any database. This would also mean that any future awards (10 / 20 / 30 / 40) would not automatically be notified by the recorder. The onus would fall upon the entrant to prove that they would be entitled to a LDWA award. Letters have now been written to the members who are affected by this process and invited to consider changing their minds in order that the LDWA would have accurate records of ALL known completions.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped me in my second year as 100 co-ordinator. Your help has been most gratefully accepted. I don't claim any expertise in undertaking to serve as 100 co-ordinator and I simply want to do the best that I can whilst I have ownership of the portfolio.

David Morgan LDWA 100 Co-ordinator

Long Distance Paths Report

It has been a year now since taking over responsibility for the LDPs and the LDPs team have had another busy year adding new routes to the web pages. Following the appeal for volunteer helpers with the update of the LDP website pages, 2016 has seen a number of new volunteers recruited and trained by John and Paul for this important work. A lot of work in 2016 has been done with non-ISBN publications – largely routes that are promoted by LDWA members or local authorities, but there is plenty more to be done.

The volunteer long distance paths team is led by Neil Rawlins, John Sparshatt and Paul

Lawrence, with Peter Grayson, Michael Headley, who has been working on the 2016 OS map updates, David Kearns (librarian), Jeff Parr (new routes) and Lynn Jackson. The new webpage updating volunteers are (in no particular order), Victoria Morris, Julie Brownhill, Harry Archer, Jimmy Smith, Stuart Nelson, Robin Richmond and Catherine Campbell. Collectively all of whom are working very hard to maintain our extensive online database of UK LDPs and I would like to personally thank them for all their continued help and support throughout 2016. However, new volunteers are always welcome to join the LDP team as there is plenty of work still to be done. *Strider* continues with a regular LDPs News feature with extended material online. The team dealt with several hundred LDPs queries and updates from our members, the public and route promoters.

In 2016 a major review of the LDP web pages began, along with determining their sustainability in the long term, as they contain a vast amount of information which is in constant need of updating, as the information may go out of date and is in addition to the new routes and publications being added to each year. Consequently, it has been decided that we should ask the membership what they want from the LDP pages; is it still relevant to the needs of the membership, how should it look in the future etc. The LDPs team and the NEC understand that the LDP web pages are quite rightly seen as an integral part of the LDWA and fundamentally this will not change. However, with an ever increasing number of routes and publications and ageing data and only volunteers maintaining the data base, combined with new ways and devices able to view the web pages, some changes are inevitable just to keep pace. This was discussed at the Group Secretaries weekend on November 2016 and it is planned to consult with the wider membership in 2017. It is your association, your LDP web pages and your opinion counts.

Finally, both Paul and John have both done sterling work throughout 2016, in particular training and mentoring the new updating volunteers for the non-ISBN routes and I would like to thank them for their continued hard work and dedication.

Neil Rawlins

Report on Data Protection, Environmental & Risk

I. Data Protection

Data protection is an issue that requires ongoing attention. The main discussions were at the Local Group Secretaries meeting, where the following emerged:

- The Advice and Guidance has been revised and will be put up on the website.
- All Group Secretaries will be contacted annually by the Data Protection Manager to confirm:
 - a. Their Group is complying with the data protection and privacy policy
 - b. That general emails sent out to members should come via the facility provided through the website.
 - c. No record is kept relating to medical information for any participant in any event more than three months after that event
 - d. With the important exception of financial records and summary information no record of events are held on any event more than three years previously or on memberships which have expired more than five years previously.
- Group representatives should communicate the policy and guidance to any Group Officers/volunteers who may be holding any personal information as a result of being involved in Group events.
- All personal data held on a laptop, PC or other similar device is suitably password protected.

2. Environment

The main area of interest has concerned the inability to record historic rights of way in England and Wales after 1 January 2026. Whilst this seems a long time ahead, the process of identifying such paths is very time-consuming and such paths will not be claimable as rights of way after that date. This was discussed by the Groups Meeting and it was decided not to make efforts ourselves but to support other groups such as the Ramblers and the Open Space Society.

More recently, I have become interested in the lack of advance warning of diversions and closures along major long distance paths, the lack of any diversion information when the obstruction is reached and the lack of information about a closure or diversion on some of the relevant websites. This is not good enough: drivers would not accept such lack of information for their road journeys. I will follow this up and would appreciate any further information from members.

3. Risk

We have made substantial progress on risk management over the year. The latest draft of the Risk Register is designed to develop a risk management process that lists all the risks facing the Association but focusses on the big risks and issues. It is thus very much tied up with the emerging business plan.

We have categorised three risks as being highly likely and impactful:

Risk M1: membership starts to decline with ageing of existing members and insufficient new members, threatening the viability of events and of the LDWA itself – there is already a problem in replacing ageing volunteers and some groups have a high age profile.

Risk L1: the Long Distance Footpaths Database is not maintained at previous standards. This is a key asset of the LDWA both in terms of membership benefits and recruitment.

Risk E4: there is a very real risk that access to the countryside for events will be subject to a charge or a licence with landowners such as the National Trust or authorities' such as the National Parks seeking contributions from "commercially-operated" events.

If members have views about other strategic risks to the organisation, they should contact me. There are another 10 risks marked up as high likelihood with medium impact or medium likelihood with high impact, relating to key officers, internet and IT, finance, and the LDP database.

Responsibilities for each of these topics (and another 30 less high profile risks) have been allocated to one or more NEC members to take charge of.

Christopher Hedley, Environment, Data Protection and Risk Manager

Agenda Item 5(2) - Other Reports

Merchandise – A report from Tin Glenn

The year of 2016 for LDWA merchandise ended as brightly as it began, with sales that were both impressive and inspiring. In between, some indifference, but neither disappointment nor despair, for certain, ever entered the equation and as a whole the twelve months averaged out nicely in favour of a satisfactory result. Total sales of £3,702-50 were especially pleasing, as three quarters of 2016 had to be endured without the UK Trailwalker's Handbook, our best-selling item since 2009.

2016 was the year that stocks of both the UK Trailwalker's Handbook and Out On Your Feet, by Julie Welch, finally ran dry, although copies, at a price, can be tracked down through a web search. The Long Distance Walkers' Chart is now heading the same way. Peco Ltd, our garment supplier, based in Leeds, served us brilliantly throughout the year, in terms of both general processing and despatch, with any contentious issues kept to a bare minimum.

Diversity is as diversity does and requests for anything and everything from our extensive range of products has been forthcoming throughout the year, to the extent, in fact, that nothing from the listings has either been added or subtracted, such action deemed unnecessary. 2017, for the sake of refreshing our lines, and attempting to further the interests of those who enjoy long distance walking apparel will, however, heed a few minor changes; all, it is hoped, to our advantage.

Thank you, as always, at the end of another year, for the interest, support and enthusiasm that has once again stimulated me into happily serving our cherished and ever growing community of avid long distance walkers. Now approaching the start of my 21st year in this role, I am delighted to announce that I shall once more be ready to accept the key of the (shop) door.

Long Distance Walkers Association - Social Media

The LDWA are successfully operating a number of social media platforms. The following will explain more about each one.

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/44930889351/>

Facebook is group with 4780 members. It is a platform where individuals share photographs, walking stories, ask for advice and promote walks. In addition, groups promote social walks and events and post thanks you's. It is a very informal 'discussion' style platform and portrays a very positive view of the activities of the LDWA.

The group was set up around 8 years ago by Garfield Southall - a one time NEC member. He and Helen Southall are the group administrators. Members of the NEC have liaised with Mr Southall if any concerns arise on the platform and it has been suggested we approach him about adding an administrator to act in a more corporate capacity. This gives the advantage of co-ordinating social media strategy more closely and having access to statistics about what kind of posts work well therefore informing future use of social media.

A number of LDWA groups run their own successful Facebook groups.

Members to the group continue to grow and it is a very active and vibrant platform.

Twitter - @LDWA I

Our Twitter account is managed by Jane Williams who is currently authorised to act as coordinator for managing Social Media. All posts are managed by Jane who took on the account around 2 1/2 years ago. Twitter is a platform where the LDWA can be promoted to a wider audience to encourage new members, visits to our website and allow members to share photographs and discussions. Twitter allows the LDWA to link to larger organisations such as Country Walking Magazine and the National Trust who have the capacity to reach large audiences. Through connecting with other 'like minded' organisations we extend the reach of how we can promote the LDWA.

One example is Si Entries. An online sports booking system who advertise many of our walks.

A number of LDWA groups have their own accounts and their posts are shared by the LDWA account therefore promoting their activities.

We have 1573 followers and this is steadily growing. More recently, members and nonmembers have had many discussions about our walks and how great they are!

Pinterest

Pinterest is a recent edition to our Social Media presence. This is an online notice board style platform where we can add individual notices about news, walks, Long Distance Paths and events. Once a notice has been posted it stays on the platform until it is removed. Other users can 'pin' the notice onto their information.

Each notice links directly back to our website, thereby encouraging people to visit it for more information.

All 'notices' are being added by Jane Williams and is an on-going process.

We have 80 notices 'pinned' and 58 followers.

Instagram - ldwa-org

An even more recent addition (2 weeks ago) is our Instagram account. This is being run by Jane Williams and new member recruit Sarah Unsworth. We are currently populating the site with a view to launching it across our other social media sites and groups to promote its use.

Instagram is a site for sharing pictures and videos and is used on phones, iPads and other mobile technologies. Instagram is very popular with all ages but over 50% of users are aged 18-29 so it is a great platform for attracting younger audiences. One useful feature that we will be exploring, is sharing posts with our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Instagram uses hashtags # to reach audiences. In addition, if any of our members use our hashtag - #LDWA - we can share their pictures to our account.

We currently have 37 followers.

Overall our Social Media presence has grown at a steady rate over the last 8 years. It remains a positive portrayal of the aims of the LDWA. For the future, we need to look at a strategic plan for incorporating Social Media into any marketing policies.

Jane Williams

The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited Election of the National Executive Committee for 2017-18

There is a contested election for the post of **General Secretary** and an election will take place. The two candidates are:

Peter TOGHILL
Madeleine WATSON

The results of the ballot will be announced at the AGM on 12 March 2017 and then put on the LDWA website.

The remaining **Principal Officer** posts are uncontested. The unopposed candidates are:

Chair:	Abigail ELRICK (Gail)
Treasurer:	Alexander GEE (Sandy)
Membership Secretary:	Steph CARTER
Editor:	Graham SMITH
Internet Officer:	Adam DAWSON

The six **Executive Officer** positions are uncontested. The unopposed candidates are:

Julie CRIBB
David FINDEL-HAWKINS
Christopher HEDLEY
David HOLLAND
David MORGAN
Neil RAWLINS

Election Statements see overleaf

Election Statements of Candidates for Honorary Secretary

Peter TOGHILL *Proposer: Ian Beveridge Seconder: Michael Godfrey*

Walking has been my main way of keeping fit for the last 30 years. Several times a year I would do solo all-day walks in the Hampshire countryside.

A friend pointed out there were other unusual people who regularly walked 20+ miles and I found group walks with Wessex LDWA. I have been a member of Wessex LDWA for 7 years and what enormous fun and pleasure it's given me. The joy of meeting a group of like-minded people who want to walk a reasonable distance at a good pace in a day.

I have devised and led 16 Wessex walks during the last 6 years and have helped other leaders recce dozens more. I am part of the recce crew that devises and walks out the routes for the annual Wessex weekend way.

In my view, the flagship 100 event needs strong leadership and requires a substantial commitment from the groups involved in organising the event. These events can only happen because of the huge support by other groups from around the country running things like checkpoints and helping out with the logistics for the weekend itself and for the preceding Marshals' event. I've been part of the Wessex checkpoint at the last 5 Hundreds (2012-2016) and have had various roles on the Wessex New Forest Challenge over the last 7 years and am managing entries and registration for the 2017 event.

Group social walks can be viewed as training events for Trail walks and Challenge events or a chance to gossip to friends while enjoying countryside views. They also generate bonding where members volunteer to marshal Challenge events.

I attended the Harrogate AGM in 2014 and enjoyed it so much that 2017 will be my fourth AGM.

I was involved in organising the walks for the 2015 Sutton Scotney AGM, and devised and co-led the 'B' walk.

I have been secretary of the Wessex Group for 4 years and my involvement with the AGMs has made me want to get involved in the Association at national level.

NEC decisions benefit by being made by executives with recent experience of managing local groups which ensures Group DNA is in their genes.

Madeleine WATSON *Proposer: John Sparshatt Seconder: Randal Metzger*

I am Madeleine Watson, age 53, live in Leeds, and have been in the LDWA since 2002, as part of West Yorkshire local group.

In my professional life I am a statistician. I started working life as a civil servant and am still part of the public sector, working at senior management level on health statistics.

I regularly take part in challenge events around the country, including the 100. I am approaching 10 completions of the 100, of which the majority have been on the Marshals' Walk and then helping on the main event.

I served on the Executive Committee between 2010 and 2012, latterly as Events Secretary.

I have an orienteering and fell running background. I served for 12 years on the Fell Runners Association's Executive Committee in a number of roles, including statistician, junior coordinator, treasurer and finally 3 years as Chair.

I understand how volunteer committees must work together to be effective and I now wish to return to the LDWA Executive Committee to serve as General Secretary.

What I bring is a great deal of experience of participating in LDWA events, prior knowledge of being a member of the LDWA Committee, and experience of making things happen at a senior managerial level in a large organisation.

Short Election Statements of Unopposed Candidates

Principal Officers:

Chair: Gail ELRICK *Proposer:* Lynne McKenzie *Seconder:* Laurence Foe

I am applying for my third year for the position of Chair. If elected, I see my key aims to achieve during the year as: (1) To continue with my work to further develop, hopefully finalise and if possible commence implementation of the Business Plan; (2) Manage the work of the NEC to ensure that it works efficiently and effectively; (3) Support NEC and other volunteers in their work for the LDWA; (4) Continue to improve communications within the LDWA, particularly between the NEC and the membership.

Treasurer: Sandy GEE *Proposer:* Aileen Baldwin *Seconder:* Paula Pickersgill

I began my role as Treasurer for the LDWA in March 2014 and have enjoyed completing the annual accounts and working with others towards further improving our processes. I would welcome the opportunity to continue in this role. I am a qualified accountant and have worked in accounting and auditing in a number of roles over the last 30 years. Since 1995 I have been in financial services and I am currently in risk management in insurance in a banking group. Apart from LDWA, my other interests include running, premier league champions Leicester City, music and beer.

Membership Secretary: Steph CARTER *Proposer:* Julie Welch *Seconder:* Julie Cribb

I am mid-term in my expected 5 years of Membership Secretary and feel I am doing the job well enough to merit re-election.

Editor: Graham SMITH *Proposer:* Brian Buttifant *Seconder:* Neil Higham

Journalist, working entirely on local newspapers for 43 years. I spent 23 years of my career as a local newspaper editor. I retired as editor of the East Kent Mercury in April 2016. Previously I was editor of the Whitstable/ Herne Bay/ Canterbury Times, the Adscene group of free newspapers and the Ashford Citizen free newspaper. I also spent four years as editor for the travel trade publication Travel GB. I joined the LDWA in 1995, Kent Group secretary since 2011, newsletter editor since 2007, Chairman of organizing group of the Cinque Ports 100 in 2019. I've completed 9 Hundreds.

Internet Officer: Adam DAWSON *Proposer:* A. G. Cartwright *Seconder:* Mary Dumble

I was appointed to the Internet role in March 2016 and am seeking re-election in 2017. I held senior roles over 32 years in both the private sector (Shell) and public sector (Senior Civil Service). In Shell I was Chemicals Executive Vice President for IT, so I have a relevant, high profile, background, well suited to this role. I am an active long distance walker, completing LEJOG in 2014 and the Pennine Way in February 2016. I have built my own websites and as Internet Officer in 2016 led the launch of the LDWA PACER events management system.

Executive Officers see overleaf

Executive Officers:

Julie CRIBB *Proposer:* Neil Rawlins *Seconder:* David Holland

I am currently in post as Local Groups Secretary and during my first year have established communications with many Local Groups Officers as well as organizing the Local Groups Weekend in November 2016. Using a combination of workshops, email and surveys we have also had positive discussions on the LDWA Business Plan and Long Distance Paths database. I would like to continue the positive relationships now established as we go through some important areas of progress within the LDWA. I have also been elected as Chair of my own Group which keeps me up to date with matters of local importance.

Dave FINDEL-HAWKINS *Proposer:* Christine Stratton *Seconder:* Ian Smith

Having been a member of the NEC for the last four years with responsibility for Challenge Events, I'm happy to put my name forward once again. I have been an LDWA member since 1981, and enjoy all aspects of walking. I have taken part in all but one of the current Challenge events organised by LDWA Groups. I have been on social walks with 43 LDWA Local Groups. I have led walks for BBN, Anytime, Anywhere and the Irregulars. I am on five of the Hillwalkers' Registers and reached Bronze level on the National Trails Register, having completed 8 National Trails. For the last ten years I have helped on Hundreds checkpoints. I am on the BBN committee as their Membership Secretary.

Chris HEDLEY *Proposer:* Mike Hayes *Seconder:* David Findel-Hawkins

Currently Environment, Data Protection and Risk Manager, I want to ensure that the LDWA continues to be the leading body for long distance walkers in the UK for the next 20 years. I would welcome the opportunity to serve the Association for a further year.

David HOLLAND *Proposer:* Hazel J. Bound *Seconder:* Annette Merchant

I joined the LDWA in 1997 since when it has been a major part of my life. I have been treasurer of the Cornwall & Devon Group and am currently the Chairman. I organized the 2013 marshals' Camel-Teign Ivor's Dream 100. For the last 2 years I have served as LDWA Publicity Officer. I believe I still have much to offer and will continue to do my best.

David MORGAN *Proposer:* David Findel-Hawkins *Seconder:* Sandy Gee

I am seeking election to the NEC for the third year and would like to continue working as the LDWA 100 coordinator for our Association. I will continue to work towards standardizing the event to make organizing the event easier for future volunteers. Following feedback at the AGM I arranged for checkpoint opening and closing calculators to be produced. In addition I have spent many hours standardizing the 100 rules in order to save future organizers time and which will also assist protecting our Association. I will continue to work with others to ensure the longevity of our flagship event.

Neil RAWLINS *Proposer:* David Holland *Seconder:* Julie Cribb

Since 2015 I have been working closely with the LDPs team to review what work is undertaken and how we can update and upgrade the LDPs section of the website, and to this end a number of new volunteers have been recruited in 2016. In 2017 I intend to work with other interested parties within the LDWA to understand exactly what the membership wants from the LDP section of the website with a view to delivery from 2018 onwards. This is a long term project which many members feel is worthwhile and part of the LDWA offering.