



LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION  
AIM: TO FURTHER THE INTERESTS OF THOSE  
WHO ENJOY LONG DISTANCE WALKING

## BEDS, BUCKS & NORTHANTS GROUP

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2013



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HAVE A GREAT DAY OUT, WALK WITH BBN  
[www.ldwa.org.uk/bedsbucksandnorthants](http://www.ldwa.org.uk/bedsbucksandnorthants)

## **New Members**

A very warm welcome to our new members who have joined BBN since the last Newsletter:

Ian Franks	Harpenden
Janet Greenslade	Luton
Terry Penny	Buckingham

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## **Letter from the Chairman**

At last some excellent weather this summer for walking and being out and about on BBN social events, challenge events if that is your 'thing,' and the 30th Anniversary celebrations. Many thanks to Chris Bent, Frances and Gromitt, Sue Leonard, Dave Yorston, Norman Corrin and Martin Lawson (sunny this time!) for organising and leading the four celebration walks and the canal cruise with a la carte dining, not forgetting the walk leaders on the John Bunyan Trail and the Milton Keynes Boundary Walk - all part of the 30th celebrations.

Speaking of warm weather, the 2013 Camel - Teign 100 was dry all weekend and many thanks to all BBNers who ran checkpoints (on the marshals' and the main event) and many congratulations to those who completed the marshals' 100 and/or the main event and commiserations to those who had to retire.

As ever, the walking programme has been wide and various and the recent John Bunyan Trail held over the weekends of 31st August/1st September and 7th/8th September reflects, in my view, what an excellent group BBN is and that we are all very fortunate that walk leaders step up to the plate. Should you feel the 'urge' to lead a walk please contact Dee Brockway or any member of the Committee.

Joint walks with our neighbouring local LDWA groups have developed over the last few years and the next event is hosted by BBN with a Walk and Quiz on Sunday 27th October - please come along if you can, walk in the morning then the quiz at Newton Longville Hall - please contact Norman Corrin for more details.

And not forgetting Santa's trip across the rooftops, come and enjoy his Tring a Ling on December 15th.

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The next challenge event is the Steppingley Step on 3rd November followed by the Pick and Mix next March. All offers of help to Merrian and Lynn and Dave Yorston respectively please. The Steppingley Step marshals' walk is on 13th October 2013 and the Pick and Mix marshals' walk is on 16th March 2014.

Your Committee and others work tirelessly on your behalf to organise events and arrange a very full social walks programme on Sundays and Thursdays. Dee and Gordon will always love to hear from you to propose a walk.

I hope that you all have good walking this autumn and stay healthy. Please support your Committee, take part in BBN events if you can, and spread the word about our events to any LDWA members you meet.

Apart from my AGM report on 24th November, this is my last report after seven years and it is time for you to appoint a new Chairman. Thanks to the Committee Members who host the Committee Meetings and thanks for the support from all the Committee Members during my tenure as your Chairman. I am sure that your Committee and new Chairman will continue to keep BBN as one of the best supported and best organised local groups of the LDWA.

Please think what you could do for BBN and not necessarily what the BBN can do for you and don't forget 'to have a great day out on a walk with BBN'.

That's all folks.

**Nigel Schofield**  
**26th September 2013**

### **BBN Committee Meeting : 26th September 2013**

The Minutes (draft) of the committee meeting held on 26th September 2013 are on the BBN website. A list of all committee members and their contact details appears on the last page of this Newsletter.

### **Ridgmont Railway Station:**

A postscript to my item about Ridgmont Railway Station in the last Newsletter. The cafe and associated souvenir shop and museum are now open and serve a great pot of tea with a friendly welcome.

**Mike Bowley**

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013**

Our AGM will be held on Sunday 24th November at 2.00pm at the River Valley Community Centre, White Horse Drive, Emerson Valley, Milton Keynes MK4 2AS.

A 9 mile (approx) walk starting at 9.00 from Emerson Valley Local Centre will be followed by lunch - see below - and then the AGM.

A copy of the provisional Agenda is shown on the opposite page. If anyone has any additional items that they wish to raise please could they contact me as soon as possible.

If anyone is interested in playing a bigger role within the group, joining the committee or taking on a specific job please contact me or speak to any committee member. If not this year, you are always welcome to come along to any committee meeting with a view to standing for election next year.

**Merrian Lancaster**  
**01908 642803**  
**[merrian22@gmail.com](mailto:merrian22@gmail.com)**

### **BBN AGM Walk and Meal : Sunday 24th November 2013**

Start 0900 from Emerson Valley Local Centre, Whitehorse Drive, Milton Keynes, post code MK4 2AS, grid ref SP 8467 3435, access from north side of A421 (Standing Way), 9ish miles, finish 1215, one tea break, lunch 1230 at The Clocktower (<http://www.johnbarras.com/pub/clocktower-emerson-valley-milton-keynes/m5942/#menu> ) or Raj Douth (<http://rajdouth.co.uk/> ) or own picnic in River Valley Community Centre from 1330, AGM 1400.

**I need numbers for restaurants by 10th November please.**

**Get rid of unwanted kit, maps, walking books, walk magazines etc.** Please bring unwanted items to the AGM. A bit like a table top sale, except it's free, or donations to charity. No-one has offered to organise this, so it'll be do-it-yourself. Anything left at the end will be taken to a charity shop.

**Walk reports and pictures** – I'm happy to load pictures and notes onto the BBN website. I can include a link to another photo publishing site, like Flickr, or you could send me a memory stick.

**Chiltern Landmarks 100** – I have spare badges.

**Merrian Lancaster**  
**01908 642803,**  
**[merrian22@gmail.com](mailto:merrian22@gmail.com).**

**LDWA : BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP : ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2013 AT 2 PM  
RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, WHITE HORSE DRIVE,  
EMERSON VALLEY, MILTON KEYNES MK4 2AS  
*PROVISIONAL* AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising**
- 3. Officers' Reports**

(a) Chairman	(f) Merchandising
(b) Secretary	(g) Equipment
(c) Treasurer	(h) Webmaster
(d) Membership	(i) Newsletter
(e) Social Walks Secretary (including Thursday Walks)	(j) Local Groups Representative
- 4. Election of Officers** Existing Post Holder *\*\*Not seeking re-election*

(a) Chairman	<i>Nigel Schofield**</i>
(b) Secretary	<i>Merrian Lancaster</i>
(c) Treasurer	<i>Ian Sage</i>
(d) Social Walks Secretary	<i>Dee Brockway</i>
(e) Election of Committee Members	<i>Lynn Yorston, Gordon Shaughnessy, Merrian Lancaster, Dave Findel-Hawkins, Gill Bunker, Martin Lawson, Norman Corrin</i>
(f) Appointment of Committee Members to specific roles:	
(i) Membership Secretary	(iv) Newsletter
(ii) Merchandising Secretary	(v) Local Groups Representative
(iii) Webmaster	(vi) Minute Secretary
(g) Cheque Signatories	<i>Ian Sage, Norman Corrin, Nigel Schofield**</i>
- 5. Subscriptions for 2014** *Ian Sage*
- 6. Health and Safety/Insurance Issues** *Merrian Lancaster*
- 7. Donations/Projects** *Norman Corrin*
- 8. BBN Challenge Events**

(a) Sundon Saunter 2012 & "SS" Events	<i>Lynn Yorston</i>
(b) Chiltern Kanter 2013	<i>Norman Corrin</i>
(c) Pick & Mix 2014	<i>Lynn Yorston</i>
- 9. LDWA Hundreds** *Merrian Lancaster/Lynn Yorston*

(a) Cornwall & Devon 2013	(b) South Wales 2014	(c) East Lancs 2015
(d) Dorset 2016		
- 10. BBN 30th Anniversary Celebrations** – *Dee Brockway*
- 11. Ideas for Group Activities — Weekends — Social Events**
- 12. A.O.B.**

## **Group Walks**

It seems sad that I am now working on social walks to be included in our post-30th anniversary year, although what a celebration year we are having, with a bit more still to come.

How can the 34 good folk who walked, sailed, wined and dined on our Canal Boat Cruise have failed to enjoy themselves? Our anniversary cake was yummy! We have now walked 30km in all three counties and 5 hardy souls turned out for all 4 of our John Bunyan Trail walks, so completing the entire 78 mile JB Trail. There is more still to come. Why not join BBN for three days in late October to add the 60ish mile Milton Keynes Boundary walk to your conquests? Also don't forget our infamous 'walk plus quiz' the week after on October 27th. I am sure you all will walk on the 24th November before our AGM.

The programme for January to April 2014 is now complete. After a very slow start (and a great deal of friendly persuasion) it is now up to our usual high standards. Allowing for local challenge walk weekends (including, of course, our own Pick and Mix), we only have one weekend during which we are not offering our members a BBN social walk to enjoy. Thanks to Gordon for co-ordinating the Thursday programme.

As always, I am now starting on the programme for May to August 2014. Please contact me as soon as possible to book a date to lead *your* walk, with the usual final details required by 10th May please. Of course I may not be BBN Social Walks Secretary by then. With seven years (I think) under my belt, I would be happy to step aside, to welcome and assist a newcomer to the post. Just saying this to let you all think about it before the AGM.

Many thanks, most of all, to our wonderful walk leaders.

**Dee Brockway**

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## **Donate a Gate**

I received an email in July from Stuart Gulliman of the Chiltern Society stating that the gate we paid for has been installed on the footpath TLE/18 at Swan Bottom, The Lee on the Chiltern Way. There will be a social walk on Sunday 27th April 2014 to visit both this new gate and the BBN gate at Coombe Hill.

**Norman Corrin**

**30th Anniversary Quiz Event  
With BBN, Essex & Herts, Thames Valley, London Groups  
Sunday 27th October 2013**

Well folks it's nearly here for the first time in two years, the 30th Anniversary Quiz.

My fellow quiz organiser Steve Smith has been rummaging through his collection of T-shirts and practising his quick change routine. It's not a pretty sight I can assure you and Pearl has never been the same since he started rehearsals!

Our friends in Essex & Herts, Thames Valley and London group have been invited, so hopefully there might be some real inter-group competition!

The walk distance is circa 8 miles this year (please note starting time of 10 a.m.) and on return to the hall there will be a light snack and hot and cold drinks, followed by a talk by the Berks Oxon and Buckinghamshire Air Ambulance before the quiz starts.

We made a donation to BOB from group funds in 2012 and they made us an offer we couldn't refuse, namely sending a representative along to make a presentation about their service. This presentation will last about 30 minutes and there will be a short question and answer session afterwards, along with the chance to buy some merchandise such as Xmas Cards.

The quiz consists of 10 rounds of 10 questions on a variety of subjects ranging from ..... well, you'll just have to turn up and find out.

Teams can be made up of family and friends from other groups. The quiz lasts for about 2 hours. It would be interesting to see if the magnificent silver LDWA cup will be taken outside of the three counties of the group for the first time. Only problem is, I now have to remember who has the trophy!

It's a fun day out so why not come along and impress us all with your knowledge (or lack of it!) and see if you can add another name to the illustrious list of winners.

Looking forward to seeing you all there - if you're interested in attending please let me know.

**Norman Corrin**  
01908 608667  
norman.corrin@btinternet.com

## **Deepdale Hostel Weekend Friday 14th/Sunday 16th March 2014**

I've now booked Deepdale hostel, 19 beds, for the weekend Friday 14th/Sunday 16th March 2014. The cost will be £25 per person for the two nights' accommodation.

Frances and I plan to offer a linear walk north from the hostel on the Saturday along the coast path to Hunstanton, using the bus for one way of the journey, and a second walk in Norfolk on the Sunday.

I am now taking bookings for beds. Please let me have a £10 deposit, payable via cheque (LDWA BBN) directly to me or Ian Sage (advising me).

My address is: 7 Kingsfield Piece, Whittlebury, Northants NN12 8TR.

**Chris Bent**

Tel: 07837 367575

chris.bent@btopenworld.com

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## **The Greensand Ridge in a Day - A Date For Your Diary**

Some outline details and all to be confirmed, apart from the date which is fixed.

Sunday 20th July 2013 - a led walk of 40 miles.

By coach from Leighton Buzzard (location to be determined, cars left at pick up point - no cars to Gamlingay) at 0600;

Start walk from Gamlingay at 0700 with eta of 2100 back at Leighton Buzzard - about dusk;

Three or four refreshment stops (hot meal at Ampthill and maybe a breakfast point if I can find somewhere);

Open to all in BBN, Essex & Herts, London and Thames Valley (wider if shortage of entrants) - but this is NOT a challenge walk and priority booking for BBN Members;

Entry form with cheque payment - none of this SI Entries malarkey (entry form is under preparation) plus SAE for confirmation of entry.

Certificate for all completers.

**Nigel Schofield**



## **Chatting with the Committee – Merrian Lancaster**

**How did you come to join the LDWA and BBN?** *Jim gave me LDWA membership as a present....can't remember when....didn't do any walks/events 'cos I thought they were only for super-fit/fast people....don't have a record of first walk with BBN...terrified I'd get left behind....Sylvie led it and told me I'd be OK...first LDWA event Shillington Shuffle, 16th November 1997... did the 17 mile route...time 5 hours and 5 minutes..... walked with Jenny....I expected to have long stops at checkpoints and was surprised when most people hardly paused... saw a Lady Amherst's pheasant on the way home through Woburn Park.....spotted John and Chris McKeon on the results list...they're no longer doing walks but I meet Chris at craft group on Monday mornings and John, when he comes to collect Chris.*

**What's your favourite piece of equipment?** *Hat and gloves.*

**Favourite event?** *Bog Dodgers (1998) – first one I did on my own.*

**Favourite walk?** *Three Forests Way marshals' walk (2004), Cant Canolbath marshals' walk (2007).*

**Best mile?** *To a pub, to a checkpoint, to tea break, to lunch or the last one.*

**What's your lunchtime snack?** *Beer, crisps and sarnie with fresh bread.*

**What luxury item do you carry with you that you don't need to?** *I can't think of anything that I can't justify. Although I've only ever used the swiss army knife to open bottles of beer, I carry it "just in case". Complete change of clothes – "just in case". Paper and pen – "just in case". The sit-mat is not essential, or "just in case", so that must count as a luxury.*

**Who would you most like to walk with?** *My family and friends.*

**Recent theatre trip?** *Prom 27, after doing another bit of Capital Ring.*

**Fave film?** *Brassed Off.*

**Best footballing moment?** *Pats winning Super Bowl(s).*

**Favourite player?** *Gianfranco Zola, Jonty Rhodes.*

**Live anywhere in the world?** *Lake District, Yorkshire Dales, somewhere warm, Kensington, France.*

## **BBN Milestones ..... Walking through the first 30 years .....**

**BBN was started very much from scratch in 1983 by Chris Meredith – Chris left notices at challenge events and then on 4th September 1983 led six walkers on the 25 mile walk from Milton Keynes that inaugurated our fledgling group.**

***The Magnificent Seven on the first walk: Chris Goodman, Dave Draper, Cyril Blow, Chris Meredith, Graeme Crowe, Ron Mills, plus photographer Albert (Jim) Horrell.***



*The First Walk*

### **Early Years**

- **Our thriving group was thus formed. We were an official LDWA group in June 1984 and by September 1985 we had a committee to share the workload and a logo - and a £1 subscription which continues to the present day!**
- **Chris Meredith was soon to be unable to do so much due to ill health – the reins were ably taken over by Chris Goodman.**

- Chiltern Kanter - BBN inherited the Chiltern Kanter via Chris Goodman. It was at that time an Essex & Herts event (having initially been started by Brian Graves in 1977 with help from Dave Findel-Hawkins). Because Chris belonged to both groups the event came to be promoted jointly by the two groups biennially for the next 10 years, early on by Chris Goodman and then Sybil Davies and Gill Bunker. BBN took over sole running of the Kanter in 1995 under Derek Jacob's stewardship, with Essex & Herts organising their 14 Green Kanter in the intervening year.

### **1986**

- Our first challenge walk – Janet and Roy Presland celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary by organising the first Nene Valley Kanter from Thrapston. This soon became a popular feature on the LDWA calendar. The following year the event moved to Wadenhoe, which was to become its home, although for two years it was based at Yardley Hastings while the hall at Wadenhoe was being rebuilt. The event ran until 1998, with Roy organising a special one-off in 2003 as part of BBN's 20th anniversary celebrations.

### **1988**

- First sole BBN 100 CP – previously we had helped at Essex & Herts CPs. BBN's long association with farmyards and barns began with our 24 hour stint at Slack House Farm at 70 miles on the White Peak 100. We hit the jackpot in the Brecon Beacons 100, though, with a barn attached to an inn – but the downside was at 92 miles we were open for 28 hours.

### **1989**

- First group clothing – green rugby shirts/sweatshirts. Later came polo shirts, jogging bottoms and BBN cloth badges.

### **1990**

- The Chiltern Hundred and BBN (led by Sybil Davies) played a major part in the marshals' walk, manned the start of the main event, and ran the "Bradenham Garden Party" CP.

### **1991**

- Milton Keynes Boundary Walk was launched in 1991 – the project of Chris Meredith for the Year of the Environment. We walked the 60 mile route over three days as part of BBN's 20th birthday celebrations in 2003, and we do the same in October 2013 for the 30th birthday.
- The first Shillington Shuffle organised by John Nickerson – based at Shillington for the first two years - then moving to Barton-le-Clay.
- BBN's first Christmas Lunch at the Bull, Olney.



*Janet Presland, Sybil Davies The Chiltern Hundred 1990*



*Launch of the Milton Keynes Boundary Walk 1991  
1st pic - Chris Meredith far left  
2nd pic - there were a lot more folk at the launch  
but this is the (very youthful looking) BBN team*

### **1993**

- BBN's 10th birthday was celebrated with a very enjoyable lunch at Wadenhoe Village Hall – provided by the ladies of Wadenhoe.
- BBN member Tony Willey became LDWA National Treasurer.

### **1994**

- First social evening (The Bull, Olney) – we had worked out that Olney was roughly the centre of our three counties.



## 1995

- Derek Jacob (Jake) took over the Chiltern Kanter – now run by BBN alone
- 10th Nene Valley Kanter.
- John Nickerson's job took him to the USA – Herbert and Pauline Papworth stepped in and organised the Shillington Shuffle in 1995 and 1996.

## 1999

- The first Rutland Venture - organised by Peter Bearne. There were seven events, the last in 2005.

## 2000

- BBN celebrated the Millennium with the Holy Hobble – 60 miles (and 1000 years) in 26 hours linking the 20thC Church of Christ the Cornerstone in Milton Keynes with the 10thC All Saints Church at Earls Barton. Organised by Norman Corrin and Martin Lawson, as a “one-off” (until the next time!), helped by Adrian Moody and Gill Bunker.
- The tenth Shillington Shuffle, with free entry to everybody who had entered the previous 9 events. Six walkers completed all 10 – Mike Newbitt, Alan Wheeler, Brian Chandler, Tim Glenn, Keith Noble and Jackie Burnett. John Nickerson decided to rest the route and replace it with a new walk in 2001.

## 2001

- Foot and Mouth struck and the countryside was closed. (*I remember buying the food for the Chiltern Kanter one day and taking it all back a couple of days later – Tesco were very understanding.*) Judy Wheeldon and Norman Corrin led walks within Milton Keynes, and Roy Presland led a walk on some open paths near Kimbolton.
- The Steppingley Step organised by John Nickerson replaced the Shillington Shuffle.
- Founder member Chris Meredith was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the community in Milton Keynes.

## 2002

- The first Wendover Gap from Prestwood - organised by Lynn and Dave Yorston with Mike and Sandra Hyland and Paul Sorensen – this was then held every second year to alternate with the Chiltern Kanter.

## 2003

- Chiltern Kanter – Jake's last Chiltern Kanter after 10 years – and the first one from Tring and - tarmac car parking! – the reason for the move from Ivinghoe - who could forget the cars being pushed off the Lawn at Ivinghoe after a day of torrential rain.
- Chequers Challenge – Adrian Moody introduced his 21 mile Anytime Challenge from Tring.

- Adrian Moody organised the Gongoozler in the Chilterns from Hemel Hempstead – not a BBN event (though we checkpointed) but a canal walk for charity organised by LDWA stalwart Frank Hodson in a different part of the country each year. This was Frank’s 24th event.
- **BBN’s 20th anniversary and a programme of celebrations:**
- Adrian Moody led an anniversary walk from Woburn in August– recreating as near as possible the route of the first walk. Chris Meredith came along to the start. One of the walkers was Graeme Crowe who had been on the first walk – looking hardly a day older. All walkers received a commemorative certificate from Adrian.



*Start of the 20th Anniversary Walk*

- **Birthday Tea Walk** – John Nickerson led 33 walkers on a 16 mile walk followed by a birthday tea in his garden. A lovely sunny day. Again one of the original walkers was with us – Ron Mills. Chris Meredith joined us as Guest of Honour and was presented with a souvenir album of photos of group walks and events.
- **Nene Valley Kanter** – Roy Presland organised a 20th birthday celebration of our first challenge event. Only one walker completed all 13 NVK events – Jackie Burnett.





*Start of 20th Anniversary Birthday Tea Walk, Bedford*



*Birthday Tea in John Nickerson's garden*

- **Milton Keynes Boundary Walk – we walked the LDP created by our founder member Chris Meredith over three days. 19 took part on the various days and 11 completed the whole Walk.**

## 2004

- County Flowers - We had new floral emblems for our three counties following the County Flowers campaign to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee: Beds: the Bee Orchid, Bucks: the Chiltern Gentian, Northants: the Cowslip. These three flowers are carved on the Memorial Bench for Chris Meredith and Chris Goodman at Ivinghoe.
- First BBN Quiz – hosted by Norman Corrin and Sylvie Eames - and won by Dave F-H and Merrian's team. The Kop Choir gave them a good run for their money – but had trouble understanding Norman's accent in the *Vive La France* round.
- BBN's first Thursday walks – Martin Lawson led a Thursday walk in each county to see how popular they would be. They certainly proved popular! The Thursday walks programme was later taken over by John Nickerson and, at present, is in the capable hands of Gordon Shaughnessy.
- BBN had a website – set up and run by David Clifton.
- Santa joined us on a walk for the first time – there was a definite hint of Scouse in his Ho Ho Ho.

## 2005

- Norman Corrin joined the National LDWA Committee as Publicity Officer.
- Chiltern Kanter – Norman Corrin took over as organiser.
- Peter Bearne's last Rutland Venture.
- Holy Hobble Re-Walk - 13 of us walked this as a bit of a leg stretch before the Chiltern Hundred marshals' walk. Starting at 7pm on 1st April – All Fools Day!
- The big one – BBN's biggest challenge to date– together with London and Thames Valley groups, BBN took on a massive role in the organisation of the Chiltern Landmarks Hundred. Paul Sorensen chaired the 100 Committee, the route was devised and written by Adrian Moody; Lynn Yorston sorted the catering, checkpoint locations and checkpoint managers; the marshals' walk was organised by Dave Yorston; and Nigel Schofield took on transport and tracking. Many others helped, and a few lines here cannot begin to convey the massive workload these people undertook and how, through organising such a successful event, they raised BBN's profile and introduced many walkers to the beautiful countryside of the Chilterns.
- The updated BBN website was launched by Steve Clark.

## 2006

- Five Easy Pieces – Nigel Schofield led us round the Chiltern Landmarks Hundred in five stages through the summer.
- Installation of the first BBN kissing gate on the Ridgeway path near Coombe Hill.



- There is now an area of Woodland Trust land dedicated to BBN (together with London and Thames Valley groups - funded from the surplus from the Chiltern Landmarks 100) at Philipshill Wood, just outside Chorleywood (TQ010947).
- The Easton Promise replaced the Rutland Venture - organised by John Nickerson with assistance from Werrington Joggers.

## **2007**

- BBN celebrated 30 years of the Chiltern Kanter (though not the 15th event as Foot & Mouth meant there was no event in 2001).

## **2008**

- **BBN's 25th birthday:**
- A re run of the "Never Again" Holy Hobble - for those who missed it the first time, says Norman.
- Birthday Tea at John Nickerson's. Another lovely day.
- Anniversary Party at Newton Longueville Hall organised by John Nickerson, Gill Bunker and Gerry Garland. LDWA legend Tim Glenn entertained us with a light-hearted talk and the greatly missed Charles Francis gave us a selection of humorous songs - hilarious. The star turn was Naughty Norma, the femme fatale from Gay Paree. A night to remember!
- 25th Anniversary Triple Challenge - encompassing BBN events between the Chiltern Kanter 2007 and Chiltern Kanter 2009. 82 awards were given.
- 25th Anniversary T shirt.
- The Bench Project - After three years the installation of 6 benches on the Greensand Ridge completed Norman Corrin's Gates and Benches project.
- Last Wendover Gap.

## **2009**

- The Memorial Bench in memory of our Founder Members Chris Goodman and Chris Meredith was erected on the Green at Ivinghoe - opposite the former Youth Hostel, which for many years was the home of the Chiltern Kanter. Another project undertaken by Norman Corrin.
- Got to be an LDWA first? Therese Jamin led a Walk and Fly from Dunstable Gliding Club.

## **2010**

- The first Pick and Mix from Great Missenden organised by Lynn and Dave Yorston with Sandra and Mike Hyland.

## **2011**

- The launch of the SSS Triple Challenge - the aim to complete consecutively the 2011 Shillington Shuffle, the new Sundon Saunter (2012)

and the Steppingley Step (2013) – these three walks will then rotate annually to make a continuing challenge.

## **2012**

- BBN celebrated the LDWA's 40th anniversary – 21 walkers got extremely wet on Martin Lawson's Hearts of Oak walk.
- BBN played a mega part in the Games Hundred. Again a massive undertaking for those BBNers on the organising team – Norman Corrin (Entries), Lynn and Dave Yorston (Marshals' Walk/Merchandise), and Nigel Schofield (Transport).
- The first Sundon Saunter with a route devised by Dave Sedgley.

## **2013**

- Chiltern Kanter moved to Pitstone.
- Dave Findel-Hawkins became LDWA National Events Secretary.
- **Celebrating BBN's 30th anniversary:**
- New Year in the Dog House – Walk and lunch organised by Norman Corrin
- Walk and Brewery Trip – organised by John Davies; the walk was led by Graham Missing and included a very enjoyable beer tasting session at the Chiltern Brewery near Wendover.
- 30 mile group walk led by Chris Bent from Whittlebury.
- 30k walk in each of our three counties organised by Martin Lawson and led by Sue Leonard, Dave Yorston and Martin.
- Canal Boat Trip organised by Norman Corrin.
- Walking the John Bunyan Trail - organised by Gill Bunker and led by Eric Cartwright, Dee Brockway, Derek Jacob and Therese Jamin. 20 walkers took part over two very enjoyable weekends, with 5 completing the whole Trail.

### **And still to come in 2013**

- Walking the Milton Keynes Boundary Walk over three days organised by Sylvie Eames 19th/20th/21st October.
- 30 Years with BBN in Paradise - Walk and Quiz organised by Norman Corrin 27th October.
- Steppingley Step on 3rd November – Dave Findel-Hawkins' route - and the first SS event where walkers can complete the SSS Triple Challenge begun in 2011.

### **And in July 2014**

- Greensand Ridge in a Day organised by Nigel Schofield.

**Gill Bunker (EAOE!)**

### **30th Anniversary Canal Boat Cruise - Sunday 18th August 2013**

The previous weekend on Gordon's joint Essex & Herts social walk we were blessed with superb sunshine, an excellent lunch location and the amusement of seeing Gill's afternoon snack nicked by a passer-by's dog! I kept thinking to myself "I hope it goes alright for our group's 30th Anniversary canal boat trip next weekend".

Well it pretty mostly did. The 29 people who said they were going turned up when they said they would at Pitstone Wharf along with three others who were doing the walk only. For a moment I thought I'd missed them off the meal list but I hadn't. That was one panic over. Everyone was early and I was probably the one who delayed the start with my spiel.

The day's walk was part of the Chiltern Kanter long route in reverse and we passed the plaque donated by BBN on Bridge 4 of the Wendover Arm. We had some lovely views of not Tring as we walked past the cemetery (dead boring) and up the (not) Tring Country Park path viewing one of the Rothchilds' many mansions.

This was when we had our slight dampener on the day with a brief shower and if you look at the photos Merrian put on the website she caught me showing my girdle. But there again it's not a pretty sight so best not to!

From there we carried on seeing more fantastic views of not Tring and through Aldbury Nowers where I tried to recruit more LDWA members over lunch whilst Gill sorted out transport for the John Bunyan Trail.

I was very pleased we had enough time to visit the BBN Founders' Memorial Bench for a group photo there and returned to Pitstone Wharf for an ice cream and a cuppa and to be joined by those members who had not walked.

Boarding the Chiltern Countess we had what I call a languid two hour trip to Marsworth where we didn't have to sing for our fish and chip supper but had it delivered from the Red Lion PH. I'd not been on a canal boat travelling through locks before and thought it was fascinating. I can understand why it is such a popular holiday experience.

With people sipping their wine, eating slices of the BBN birthday cake and watching the world pass by, along with the Graham Gooch look-alikes raising funds for the Lord's Taverners and the Amyloidosis Research Fund, it was a more relaxed way of celebrating 30 years of effort by a lot of members.

Some two hours later we were back at the jetty whilst Gill and Jackie (who else) were making risqué remarks about Mr Belcher's barge!



*At the Founders' Memorial Bench at Ivinghoe*





*Former Chairman Sybil Davies cuts the Cake*

It had been a lovely way of passing a Sunday and all seemed to enjoy.

**Norman Corrin**

## Walking the John Bunyan Trail - August/September 2013



*John Bunyan Trail – Day 3  
Our leader Jake was waiting for us in Cranfield*

20 walkers took part in the two John Bunyan Trail weekends – with 5 of us completing the whole Trail. We finished with a celebration drink at the Red Lion, Elstow.

Thank you to Eric, Dee, Jake and Therese who led us round. We certainly had some super weather and the countryside we walked through looked lovely in the sunshine. A little drizzle for half an hour or so on the last Sunday didn't dampen our spirits. Therese went home on the second Saturday and made birthday cakes for the Sunday – to start the celebration of her birthday the coming Tuesday. Daniel had secret plans to make her day really special.

We missed visiting John Bunyan's birthplace at Harrowden - we (me) didn't realise in time that the JBT had been amended to include this - though Gary was going to run there before he went home, so on 2nd February next year I am leading a walk which includes this – to complete the circle.

**Gill Bunker**

## **Not Quite 30 Years of BBN**

What is my first memory of BBN? It was the Snowdon 100 in 1987 when I retired at their joint checkpoint with E&H and handed over my unused rations Mars Bars etc to Sybil. I thought "I can't possibly eat all of these" .....how times have changed! That tradition continued at all the walks I saw her on for the next few years. Not through retiring but just Sybil and Gill being everywhere! I'm glad to say that this was re-instated at the 30th Anniversary Canal Boat Cruise.....

I always saw Gill at the start of the Ouse Valley Amble each year. But the next BBN occasion that really stands out is an early Shillington Shuffle. I walked the short route and whilst waiting for my lift home offered my services to Roy and Janet booking in. After a few hours of hollering out names of finishers to collect their certificates I thought "I really enjoyed that". Whether it's being loud and gobby or helping out I'll let you decide.... From then I enjoyed many Shillington Shuffles at the church checkpoint handing out sweets, particularly on my birthday.....

I came onto the committee and Gill told me I couldn't speak for the first year. When that curfew was lifted I said "I've an idea to celebrate the Millennium, a one-off event to connect the Churches in our three counties". Like Topsy it grew and grew into The Holy Hobble. In 2008 that same event became the second in a one off series! But at least on that one I didn't have Sylvie Eames telling me the number of ums and ahs in my speech at the start of the event!

At the 25th Anniversary party all I could hear was Sandra Hyland constantly giggling at Madame Norma in her sleek party dress showing off her stunning figure...

Nine months later on The Wessex 100 seeing Dee and Betty complete their first 100 arm in arm (I don't know who was holding who up...) despite Steve Smith literally leading them up the garden path.

There are just too many others to squeeze into this article.

In our outstanding 20th Anniversary newsletter produced by Gill she quoted Lynn Yorston who said "We're a working class group without any airs and graces". I always thought that summed us up. We're like a tin of Ronseal - we do exactly what it says on the tin.

We've been very lucky with the people we've had in our group. Like the now defunct News of the World all human life is found in BBN. Our common love of the outdoors and a physical challenge, despite the occasional tiff which all families have, has meant "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts". That quote came from Aristotle and not would you believe Mr William Shankly....



I hope that you've all enjoyed your years in BBN whether it is 30, 15, or only 5. May you long stay with us and contribute to the 40th Anniversary.

**Norman Corrin**

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**Who do you think they are? BBN doppelgangers**

I met up with a BBN member one Friday in a pub in Milton Keynes and was immediately struck by his resemblance to a 1970s/80s/90s movie star. That gave me an idea for an occasional column in the newsletter of look-a-likes. If you can send in photos of 'shlebs who look like BBN members or vice versa let us know. To start the ball rolling, can you tell these people apart?

**Norman Corrin**



**Martin Lawson**



**Al Pacino**



**Gordon Shaughnessy**



**Norman Corrin**



## Comedy Corner

After hearing about pork products found in Halal meat Abdul was so upset that he rang the Muslim Help Line but all he got was crackling.....

*I know a woman who has a secret admirer. She gets a bouquet every day from him. Funny thing is though there are no petals or leaves on it. I think she's being stalked*

South Korean officials have confirmed the name of the pilot who crash landed a Korean Plane in San Francisco in July this year. He's called Lan Ding Gon Wong

*The In-Laws bought me a pair of roller blades from Poundland for my birthday. Cheapskates!*

I'm in a band called The Wedding Cakes. My brother plays guitar and bass, my cousin plays the drums and icing.

*How do you make toast in the jungle? Stick it under the G'rilla'.*

The Grim Reaper came for me last night, and I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner. Talk about Dyson with death

*I went to the cemetery yesterday to lay some flowers on a grave. As I was standing there I noticed 4 grave diggers walking about with a coffin, 3 hours later and they're still walking about with it. I thought to myself, they've lost the plot!!*

My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were £70!!! Blow this, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the web.

*I was at an ATM yesterday when a little old lady asked if I could check her balance, so I pushed her over.*

I was driving this morning when I saw an RAC van parked up. The driver was sobbing uncontrollably and looked very miserable. I thought to myself that guy's heading for a breakdown.

*Statistically 6 out of 7 dwarves are not Happy.*

My neighbour knocked on my door at 2:30am this morning, can you believe that, 2:30am?! Luckily for him I was still up playing my Bagpipes.

**Norman Corrin**

**GROUP WALKS PROGRAMME  
DECEMBER 2013 TO APRIL 2014**

**Sun Dec 1 2013                      Start from the Top**  
17ml. Start 09.00 From S end of Market Square, Toddington. Map: LR 166 (GR TL010288). **C:** Peter Simon **T:** 01582 513827.

**Thu Dec 5 2013                      Two Loops from Linford**  
15ml. Start 09.30 From Stonepit c.p. off Wolverton Road, Milton Keynes. Map: Exp 207 (GR SP844422). Figure of 8 walk. **C:** Gill Bunker **T:** 01908 321308 **M:** 07790 976090 on day only.

**Sun Dec 8 2013                      The Mystery of Blisworth Tunnel**  
18ml. Start 09.00 From road out of Blisworth towards Stoke Bruerne, c.p. on R at opening of Blisworth tunnel on the Grand Union Canal. Map: Exp 207 (GR SP730528). **C:** Frances Craven **T:** 07837 367575.

**Sun Dec 15 2013                      Santa Wants You to Play at his Tring a Ling**  
15ml. Start 09.00 From Tring Central c.p. Map: Exp 181 (GR SP926115). Please bring a wrapped gift to value of £1. Santa will lead the walk. Carol singing, mince pies and 'winter warmer' refreshments en route. **C:** Santa's 'not so little' helper Norman Corrin **T:** 01908 608667 **M:** 07980 378656 on day.

**Thu Dec 19 2013                      Xmas at Wetherspoons**  
13ml. Start 09.30 From c.p. and picnic area at Three Locks. Map: Exp 192 (GR SP892283). Shorter walk to include extended break at Wetherspoons – The Swan Hotel, Leighton Buzzard. **C:** David Findel-Hawkins **T:** 01908 216476.

**Sun Jan 5 2014                      Navigator's Way Plus New Year Meal**  
7ml. Start 09.00 From the Green Man p.h. Stanford (just N of Shefford) on the B658. Map: LR 153 (GR TL159411). Pls book meal with Steve by Dec 19th. **C:** Steve Smith **T:** 01767 220307 **M:** 07817 041621 on day.

**Thu Jan 16 2014                      An Amended Newport Muster**  
15ml. Start 09.30 From free c.p. Queen's Ave, Newport Pagnell (at rear of Boots Chemist). Long stay c.p. is at far end of short stay c.p. Maps: LR 152 Exp 207 (GR SP875440). **C:** Graham Missing **T:** 01908 611187 **M:** 07402 390738 on day.

**Sun Jan 19 2014                      Ridgeway Roundabout**  
19ml. Start 09.00 From main pay c.p. High St, Tring (or free in nearby streets). Maps: LR 165 Exp 181 (GR SP926115). **C:** Peter Hamson **T:** 01442 245308 **M:** 07507 341133 on day.

**Sun Jan 26 2014                      Another Sundon Saunter**  
19ml. Start 09.00 From The Compasses p.h., Greenfield. Pls park quietly on the grass beyond the c.p. at rear of p.h. Map: Exp 193 (GR TL051347). Lunch close to p.h. **C:** David Sedgley **T:** 01525 714961 **M:** 07583 091770 on day.

**Thu Jan 30 2014                      Something New**  
15ml. Start 09.30 From Amphill Park c.p. Map: LR 153 (GR TL025382). **C:** Brian Harwood **T:** 01234 267654 **M:** 07944 197085 on day.

**Sun Feb 2 2014                      The Tinker from Elstow**  
18ml. Start 09.00 From Wilstead village c.p. (220yd from X-roads towards Cotton End – on rhs). Map: Exp 208 (GR TL066435). Lunch nr p.h. at Cople. **C:** Gill Bunker **T:** 01908 321308 **M:** 07790 976090 on day.

**Thu Feb 13 2014                      Stanion Stomp**  
15ml. Start 09.30 From Kettering Rd, S-W end of Stanion off the A43. Map: Exp 224 (GR SP912866). **C:** Anne Addison **T:** 01780 740414.

**Sun Feb 23 2014                      Towersey and a Disused Railway Path**  
17ml. Start 09.00 From Towersey Church (E of Thame). Map: LR 165 (GR SP735053). If time permits will include a visit to St Tiggywinkle's Wildlife Hospital near Haddenham. **C:** Therese Jamin **T:** 01582 571455 **M:** 07779 227675.

**Thu Feb 27 2014                      Eastward Ho!**  
15ml. Start 09.30 From Compasses p.h., Greenfield. Please park quietly behind p.h. on grass beyond c.p. Map: Exp 193 (GR TL051347). **C:** Dave Sedgley **T:** 01525 714961 **M:** 07583 091770 on day.

**Sun Mar 2 2014                      Huntingdonshire Wolds**  
18ml. Start 09.00 From c.p. Great Gidding Village Hall. Map: Exp 227 (GR TL118832). Gentle rolling hills of N-W Huntingdonshire. Bring packed lunch. **C:** Michael Trolove **T:** 07703 561931.

**Sun Mar 9 2014                      Ashridge Amble**  
18ml. Start 09.00 From The Bridgewater Monument, Ashridge Park. Maps: LR 165 Exp 181 (GR SP971131). **C:** Lucy Tink **T:** 01582 832023 **M:** 07947 412215 on day.

**Thu Mar 13 2014                      Redbourn Re-Run**  
15ml. Start 09.30 From Redbourn Common c.p. nr cricket pavilion. Maps: LR 166 Exp 182 (GR TL103119). **C:** Gordon Shaughnessy **T:** 01582 518791 **M:** 07518 364036.

**Fri-Sun Mar 14-16 2014    BBN Walking Weekend: Deepdale Bunkhouse, Norfolk**

Contact Chris for further details. **C:** Chris Bent **T:** 07837 367575.

**Sun Mar 16 2014                    Pick and Mix Marshals' Walk**

For Pick and Mix Marshals only. **C:** Dave Yorston **T:** 01494 868371.

**Sun Mar 23 2014                    Woburn Wander**

15ml. Start 09.00 From free c.p. opp the church in Woburn. Map: Exp 192 (GR SP950332). Follows route of The Seven Parishes Walk. **C:** Sylvie Eames **T:** 07788 287701.

**Thu Mar 27 2014                    Coachway to Runway**

15ml. 09.30 From Milton Keynes Coachway 'Park & Ride' off A509 at M1 J14 (free c.p.). Map: Exp 192 (GR SP892405). Linear walk to Woburn Sands. Break at Cranfield adjacent to p.h. Return to start on BUS by 16.00 (run at 30 min intervals). **C:** Mike Bowley **T:** 01908 616589 **M:** 07933 066784 on day.

**Sun Mar 30 2014                    Pick and Mix**

Loops of 12, 8, 6 or 5ml. in 10hr (choose how many loops you do). From Gt Missenden CofE Combined School, Link Road entrance near HP16 9AE (GR SP896014). A combination of loops of your own chosen total distance over undulating hills, mainly on fps and bdws. Start: from 08.00. All MUST bring own mug, & compass. We recommend maps Exp 181 & 172 or Landranger 165, waterproofs & a torch. Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather at this time of year. Sorry, due to HQ on school premises we cannot allow dogs. Limit 250. Closing date 24th March. NO ON THE DAY ENTRIES. LDWA £5, Non LDWA £6 (under 18s free with adults) incl snacks & drinks at HQ between loops. A cold drinks station at about 7 miles of 12ml loop only until 13:00. All other loops have NO support. There will be a light meal when you have finished. Badge for sale. Cheques payable to LDWA BBN Group. SEF accepted with SAE. **C:** Mike Hyland, 55 Broadlands Avenue, CHESHAM, HP5 1AL **T:** 01494 774154. **E:** mike.hyland@ntlworld.com

**Sun Apr 6 2014                    Joining the Church Ends**

18ml. Start 09.00 From c.p. opposite Dunstable Police Station. Maps: Exp 181,182,192,193 (GR TL017217). Lunch at Dunstable Downs Chilterns Gateway Centre. As walk is almost a figure of eight it will be possible to leave or join the walk at lunchtime. Registered assistance dogs only. **C:** Ian Sage **T:** 01582 661256 **M:** 07815 833295 on day.

**Thu Apr 10 2014                    Linking the Aylesbury and Wendover Arms**

15ml. Start 09.30 From Startop's c.p. Marsworth (parking fee £3). Possible free parking in Marsworth village. Map: Exp 181 (GR SP919141). **C:** Brian Graves **T:**

01908 631013 M: 07563 728633 on day.

**Sun Apr 13 2014**                    **Ashridge and the Golden Valley**  
19ml. Start 09.00 From New Road, just N of Berkhamsted. Pls park facing uphill (north), on E side of the castle. Maps: LR 165 Exp 181 (GR SP996082). C: John Davies T: 01442 874875 M: 07949 796470.

**Thu Apr 24 2014**                    **An Amble in the Ouse Valley**  
15ml. Start 09.30 From Bromham Mill c.p. Map: LR 153 (GR TL010507). C: Derek Jacobs T: 01234 767759.

**Sun Apr 27 2014**                    **Gateways in the Chilterns**  
19ml. Start 09.00 From Wendover Library c.p. Maps: LR 165 Exp 181 (GR SP868077). A chance to visit the two gates donated by BBN in the Chiltern Hills. C: Norman Corrin T: 01908 608667 M: 07980 378656 on day.

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#### **BEDS BUCKS & NORTHANTS GROUP: COMMITTEE 2013**

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