



**LDWA : BEDS BUCKS & NORTHANTS GROUP
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2020
BY ZOOM**



The meeting commenced at 2pm

Present: 24

Christine Bramley, Dee Brockway, Terry Brown, Gill Bunker, Chris Burns, Roy Carter, Norman Corrin, Gerald Davies, John Davies, Sue England, Peter Engledow, John Esslemont, David Findel-Hawkins, Frank Hodgson, Mike Hyland, Daniel Jamin, Thérèse Jamin, Ed Kendrick, Mary Knight, Merrian Lancaster, Alan Leadbetter, Rachel Martin, Peter Simon, Sara Waldron

Terry welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending this virtual meeting.

1.	Apologies Steve Clark, Karen Earwicker, Phil Friede, Adrian Moody, Jim Robinson, Janette Sibley, Dave & Lynn Yorston												
2.	Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising The Minutes were approved as a true record. Prop: Sara Waldron, Sec: Mary Knight and agreed. No Matters Arising:												
3.	Officers' Reports Terry said that all reports would be taken as read; they had all been available on the website to read or download.												
(a)	Chair – Terry Brown See Chair's Report pp.5-6. There were no questions arising from Terry's report.												
(b)	Secretary – Peter Simon See Secretary's Report pp.6-7. There were no questions arising from Peter's report. Terry said that after 5 years in the post Peter was not standing for re-election as Secretary. She said he had been a valuable member of the committee and thanked him for his excellent work for the group, for his weekly Updates, for representing BBN at the Local Groups' Reps meetings and for being the main email contact for the group during this time.												
(c)	Treasurer and Proposal to Accept Accounts – Peter Engledow See Treasurer's Report and Accounts pp.7-8. Peter referred to the Accounts and said the group had a healthy bank balance. He mentioned four individual items of expenditure: <table><tr><td>09/02/20</td><td>Marshals' T Shirts</td><td>£546.72</td></tr><tr><td>06/03/20</td><td>Tolley Badges</td><td>£245.87</td></tr><tr><td>23/03/20</td><td>Plates and cups</td><td>£10.00</td></tr><tr><td>08/07/20</td><td>Solopress - Business Cards</td><td>£18.13</td></tr></table> Proposal to Accept the Accounts Peter proposed, seconded by Dee Brockway, that the Accounts be accepted and this was agreed.	09/02/20	Marshals' T Shirts	£546.72	06/03/20	Tolley Badges	£245.87	23/03/20	Plates and cups	£10.00	08/07/20	Solopress - Business Cards	£18.13
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(d)	Social Walks Secretary – Mary Knight See report p.8. There were no questions arising from Mary's report. Terry said Mary was standing down as Walks Secretary but she was pleased to report that Mary was staying on the committee. She thanked Mary for her work as Walks Secretary.												
(e)	Membership – Dave Findel-Hawkins See report pp.8-9. There were no questions arising from Dave's report.												

	Terry said Dave was standing down as Membership Secretary and thanked him for his 10 years of service on the committee; his advice and guidance were invaluable and his knowledge of the LDWA was amazing, She was happy to confirm he would be continuing to act as BBN's contact for the Hundreds.		
(f)	Merchandise – Gill Bunker See report p.9. There were no questions arising from Gill's report.		
(g)	Equipment – Lynn Yorston See report p.9. There were no questions arising from Lynn's report.		
(h)	Website – Gill Bunker See report p.9. There were no questions arising from Gill's report. Terry thanked Gill and commented that it had been a difficult year with the changes and cancellations of our walks and events due to the Pandemic.		
(i)	Newsletter – Gill Bunker See report p.9. There were no questions arising from Gill's report.		
(j)	Local Groups Representative – Peter Simon Meeting November 2020: See report p.9. Terry and Peter had both attended the recent Zoom Local Reps meeting. They had hoped the notes of the meeting would be available in time to report to this AGM. These will be circulated when they are received and put on the website. Discussion revolved around the impact of Covid on group walks, "Anytime" challenges and attracting new members to the LDWA.		
4.	Election of Officers and Committee		
(a)	Chair: Peter Simon took the chair for the election of the Chair. Terry Brown having previously been nominated, with no further nominations, was re-elected Chair.		
	Position	Nominee	Proposer
	Chair	Terry Brown	Val Thompson
			Seconder
			Chris Burns
(b)	Secretary: Gill Bunker having previously been nominated, with no further nominations, was elected Secretary.		
	Position	Nominee	Proposer
	Secretary	Gill Bunker	Rachel Martin
			Seconder
			Victoria Martin
(c)	Treasurer: Peter Engledow having previously been nominated, with no further nominations, was re-elected Treasurer.		
	Position	Nominee	Proposer
	Treasurer	Peter Engledow	David Findel-Hawkins
			Seconder
			Merrian Lancaster
(d)	Election of Committee Members Nominations having been received beforehand, and with no further nominations at the meeting, the following Committee members were elected en bloc.		
	Position	Nominee	Proposer
	Member	Sara Waldron	Neil Edmonds
	Member	Roy Carter	Phil Friede
	Member	Alan Leadbetter	Anne Addison
	Member	Mary Knight	Roger Skerman
	Member	Norman Corrin	Mike Hyland
	Member	Mike Hyland	Terry Brown
			Seconder
			Christine Bramley
			Dee Brockway
			Liz Sheffield
			Margaret Skerman
			Steve Clark
			Gill Bunker
(e)	Appointment of Committee Members to specific roles Terry said Sara Waldron would be taking over the role of Walks Secretary and Alan Leadbetter would be taking over Membership. Non-committee: Lynn Yorston has agreed to continue looking after the group's equipment.		

(f)	Cheque Signatories: Peter Engledow, Terry Brown, Gill Bunker (unchanged)
5.	<p>Health and Safety/Insurance Issues – Terry Brown</p> <p>Incident Reports:</p> <p>There had been one reportable incident. A participant on the 2019 Steppingley Step had keeled over after the event when walking back to his car due to dehydration and lack of energy. This had been reported as required.</p> <p>With the recommencement of social walks under LDWA Covid guidelines, Sports England and the LDWA's insurers required a risk assessment to be completed before each social walk, and for future challenge events.</p>
6.	<p>Donations/Projects – Update</p> <p>(a) BBN Greensand Ridge Walk Benches – Roy Carter</p> <p>See report p.7.</p> <p>Roy said there had been little movement on the project this year due to the Pandemic. Six BBN benches on the Greensand Ridge Walk need repair/replacement, The project leader is now talking of installing more than 6 benches with plaques. Hopefully there will be progress on this next year. Terry said this was a joint project with the Greensand Country Partnership and there were often spending deadlines for such projects but hopefully there would be an extension to the funding for this project due to delay caused by the Pandemic.</p> <p>(b) Any other ideas?</p> <p>There were no other ideas at the meeting. Terry said that if anyone had any ideas or comments please let the committee know.</p> <p>Thérèse Jamin could not remember if it had previously been agreed that some financial incentive be offered to encourage new walk leaders. Terry said BBN would always support new leaders. Mary said a BBN mug or buff had been given to new walk leaders as an incentive and they were always offered support by a committee member.</p>
7.	<p>BBN Challenge Events</p> <p>(a) <u>Reports of Completed Events (1/10/2019-30/9/2020)</u></p> <p>(i) Steppingley Step 2019 – Merrian Lancaster – See Report p.10.</p> <p>(ii) Hannington Hike 2020 - Alan Leadbetter - See Report pp.10-12.</p> <p>There were no questions on either report. Terry thanked the organisers and said both events had been successful with good feedback from participants.</p> <p>(b) <u>Future Events Update</u></p> <p>(i) Chiltern Kanter – Roy Carter - See Report p.12</p> <p>Roy said he had 300 badges. Despite the event being marked “Cancelled” in Strider, the Chiltern Kanter was being held as an “Anytime” Challenge to be walked between 1st February and 11th April 2021. Planning was well in hand, with Mike and Norman helping with the route. Roy would like volunteers to check the route. Several attendees indicated they were willing to help. Terry thanked Roy for his work and for adapting the Kanter into an Anytime event.</p> <p>(ii) Events Reorganised because of Covid-19</p> <p>Pick & Mix 2021 – Dave & Lynn Yorston - See Report pp.12-13</p> <p>Shillington Shuffle 2021</p> <p>Terry said it was too early to talk about future events. It is hoped that challenge events will recommence in some form, but this was for the future. She thanked everybody who had helped to make BBN events successful, both those already held and those planned for future events.</p> <p>Dee Brockway asked about “Anytime” Challenges, and whether entry was via SiEntries and how route descriptions were accessed. Roy said plans for the Chiltern Kanter were still be finalised but entry would be via SiEntries and the grid reference sheet would be available to download from the website. Terry said she had done the Flower of Suffolk Anytime. Entry had been through SiEntries</p>

	and the route description had been emailed to her, although it had also been on the Norfolk Suffolk website.
8.	LDWA Hundreds
(a)	Y 100 Sir Fynwy 2021 – A decision about the Y 100 Sir Fynwy 2021 will be made on 15th December. If it cannot go ahead, there is a Plan B!
(b)	Trans Pennine 2022
(c)	Elephant, Bear & Bull 2023
(d)	Speyside 2024 Dave confirmed that BBN have offered to run a checkpoint on the Hundreds. Mary will be the CP organiser.
9.	Group Activities — Weekends — Social Events
(a)	Hathersage Weekend 2020 – Roy Carter Roy said the weekend had gone well, with the increase in numbers allowed to walk together coming a few days beforehand. Everybody had enjoyed the weekend. Terry said Roy had written a lovely report about the weekend for the Autumn Newsletter, and thanked him for organising the holiday. Roy said he is making plans for a future trip.
(b)	Marsden Moors Weekend 8th/9th May 2021 – Dave Findel Hawkins This weekend has been postponed from May 2020. It is based around the Marsden Moors challenge event. Dave confirmed that if the event does not take place, he will lead the route as a group walk on the Saturday and will lead a second walk on the Sunday.
(c)	Midsummer Meanders 19th June 2021 - Sara Waldron - See Report p.9. Sara said this day of walks based at Milton Bryan had been postponed this year but the hall has been re-booked for 19th June 2021.
(d)	Covid-19 and its repercussions Terry felt things may not return to normal until after Easter. We are still awaiting the NEC's confirmation that social walks can recommence and what the maximum number taking part will be. The previous maximum allowed had been 30, although the final decision on numbers was the leader's following a risk assessment of the route. Dee Brockway said it was hoped a decision would be made on Monday evening when NEC Covid team were meeting. There would, however, be no travel between different tiers to join a walk. Sue England said guidance from The Ramblers indicated Covid secure walks can take place but walkers are not allowed to move between tiers. Thérèse Jamin asked about car sharing. Merrian Lancaster read out the current Government guidance – car sharing to be avoided. Gill said the previous LDWA Guidelines had indicated no car sharing was permitted so this would probably continue.
10.	A.O.B. None
11.	Date of next AGM meeting The next AGM will be held on Sunday 28th November 2021, Terry said we hope to revert to the plans Lynn and Dave Yorston had made for this year's AGM. Merrian said she would like to place on record thanks to the committee for all the work they had done during these times. Terry thanked everyone for taking part in the meeting. The meeting closed at 3.00 pm

Item 3. Committee Reports

(a) Chair - Terry Brown

I'm giving an overview of the Group's activities for our reporting year - 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020; more detailed reports have been written by those directly involved.

Your Committee – myself, Peter Simon, Peter Engledow, Gill Bunker, Mary Knight, Dave Findel-Hawkins, Alan Leadbetter, Roy Carter and Sara Waldron – met formally four times during the reporting year. I would like to thank them all for their excellent work in these difficult and uncertain times.

Unfortunately, a lot of our plans couldn't come to fruition because of the C-19 pandemic. Little did we know how things were to play out when we sent the BBN Update on 17 March 2020 with news that the LDWA National Executive Committee (NEC) had asked groups to cancel all Challenge Events, Social Walks and other business. This proved to be the right decision as the Government's full lockdown started on 23 March for 13 weeks. I'm sure many of us thought it would all be over by the Summer and we could get back to our walks and events but, sadly, that hasn't been the case.

Some things have progressed as normal though! Peter Simon has continued to provide members with information and news through his weekly Update emails. Peter has been our Group Secretary for the last 5 years but is standing down at the 2020 AGM. We thank him for the brilliant job he's done for the Group.

Gill has continued to look after the BBN website and Facebook page – although with much more work than usual; she's produced 3 excellent newsletters, taken the minutes at our Committee and Annual meetings and uploaded information for Strider. Thanks Gill – as I always say, you are a marvel!

The Committee agreed it was still necessary to meet and we started to use the Zoom video conferencing system. This proved invaluable and enabled us to take decisions as things evolved over the summer. We decided to invest in a BBN Zoom licence so we can continue to meet, sort of face to face, and to be able hold the AGM, allowing as many members as possible to attend safely.

Our thanks to Dave and Lynn Yorston who had planned to host the 2020 AGM 'down their way' with a walk, pub lunch and meeting in their Village Hall. Thanks for all the work you put in and the efforts made to attempt to hold a face to face meeting and let's hope that we'll be able to join you for the 2021 AGM.

Social Walks – up until March we'd had the usual full programme of Thursday and weekend Social Walks; thanks to Mary Knight who coordinated the programme and to everyone who led a walk during that time. Mary is standing down as Walks Secretary after 5 years, she's done a great job having streamlined the walk programme 'process' and made it easier for leaders to choose a date and submit walk details. Happily for us, Mary is willing to stay on the Committee and Sara Waldron has offered to take on the Walks Secretary role – thanks both! From 19 June we were legally able hold Group walks with up to 6 people but there wasn't much appetite for this; most members seemed happy in their own company or walking informally with friends. It wasn't until the end of August when the maximum allowable walker number was increased to 30 (through an exemption negotiated with Sport England with strict rules and C19 risk assessment) that we felt it was time to dip a walking boot into the water. Group walks started again on a 'Pop Up' basis in September and carried on into October with fairly low maximum walker numbers (decided by the leader); some walks were held twice to give as many members as possible a chance to walk. Unfortunately, with the November lockdown this programme has been suspended again. Many thanks to everyone who led a walk during the year or who offered but weren't able to do it because of C-19.

Although this isn't a particularly good time to ask, we always welcome new walk leaders - if you haven't led a Group walk before please consider having a go. We can offer help and support to first timers on route planning and leading.

Challenge Events - we did manage to hold two Challenge events in the reporting year – the Steppingley Step in November 2019 and the Hannington Hike on 1 March 2020. Both were successful with the usual good feedback. Inevitably there was some surplus food from the Hannington Hike that we would have usually used at other events, but because of the pandemic this wasn't possible. We were pleased to be able to donate this to the local NHS. Unfortunately, we had to cancel May's Pick and Mix but hope this will be able to go ahead next year. Thanks to event organisers - Merrian Lancaster, Dave Findel-Hawkins, Lynn and Dave Yorston, Mike and Sandra Hyland, Norman Corrin and Alan Leadbetter, and to those who marshalled or helped in any way, especially to those who helped for the first time - well done.

We agreed a new Triple Challenge for successive completions of the Pick and Mix, Hannington Hike and Chiltern Kanter. We had hoped to start this from March 2021 but this will depend on the C-19 situation in the new year. Thanks to Dave and Lynn Yorston for the suggestion and agreeing to take this on.

Other Group activities – our plans to attend the Marsden Moors challenge event as a group weekend and our Midsummer Meanders social walks day both had to be cancelled. We will run both of these next year if possible. Our thanks go to Roy Carter for organising a Group weekend away in August to Derbyshire centred on Hathersage. We were fortunate that the restrictions on Group walking numbers were lifted the week before which meant that Roy didn't need to implement his 'Plan B'. The trip was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

It was inevitable that the LDWA's 100-mile Sir Fynwy challenge didn't take place but there was a 'virtual 100 event' organised over the same weekend by members of the NEC. Several BBN members took part and Gill manned the virtual BBN checkpoint at the Abergavenny Girl Guides HQ and everyone entered into the spirit of the event. This was one of several initiatives set up by the NEC to get members out walking, both during and after the lockdown, and able to share their stories with the wider LDWA community through social media. Norman Corrin re-invented his annual Cream Tea Walk as a virtual affair which proved to be great fun for those who took part.

Finances and purchases – Peter Engledow continued to look after our finances and we thank him for that. As well as our Zoom licence, we've progressed several purchases this year – the new Marshals' T shirts were finished in time for the Hannington Hike and everyone agreed that they looked great. It's a shame that we didn't get the opportunity to wear them as much as we would have liked during the year. Gill organised some new BBN 'hand out' business cards with the Group's contact details on – they have a really nice, modern design; again, it's such a shame that we haven't been able to make much use of them so far. Gill has also refreshed the BBN logoed clothing ordering process with suppliers PECO; we have a very smart 'shop front' which is easy to browse, select and order products from.

Progress has been slow with the project to replace our 6 BBN Greensand Ridge Walk benches, another victim of the pandemic. We've had talks with the Greensand Trust, who are the main payers in the Greensand County Heritage Lottery Fund initiative and they've agreed that this is something that they can support. We have pledged a maximum £1k towards the cost of the new benches and we're confident that this project will be getting going again as soon as the Greensand Trust are able to move on it.

Our current Membership Secretary, Dave Findel-Hawkins isn't standing for re-election to the Committee having taken on this role in 2011. His knowledge of the 'LDWA world' is second to none and his contribution to BBN is immense. I'm glad to say however that he is willing to carry on as the BBN's 100 coordinator with Mary Knight as BBN 100 checkpoint organiser. Alan Leadbetter has volunteered to take over as our Membership Secretary. Thanks Dave, Mary and Alan.

Several members do 'little jobs' for the Group and this makes such a difference in sharing the workload. At the risk of leaving someone out, I know of and thank the following:

- Lynn and Dave Yorston keep our equipment list up to date and store a large proportion of it, along with Dave Findel-Hawkins.
- Norman Corrin contacts all our new members by phone and email to welcome them to the Group.
- Mike Hyland puts our Challenge event details onto SiEntries and liaises with them about the various services they offer.
- Merrian Lancaster publicises the LDWA and BBN at every opportunity, comes up with excellent suggestions, takes the Social Walks register, uploads her social walk pictures to Flickr for everyone to see and manages our historic Challenge Event records.
- Peter Engledow looks after our Twitter account.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who has taken an active part in the Group this year in any way, and by attending the AGM, albeit using the wonders of modern technology. I look forward to the time when we can return to some semblance of normality and meet to socialise and walk together again.

(b) Secretary - Peter Simon

BBN news updates are sent every week except when there is no news to report. There was some news in all but eight weeks over the last twelve months.

There were 741 recipients as of 17/11/2020. The corresponding number for the same week in 2019 was 734. Although the coronavirus epidemic has curtailed Group activities, membership has continued to grow, however slowly. The number of recipients is expected to continue to climb until January as new members join, and subsequently to fall as non-renewals are deleted from the mailing list.

12 extra copies of each Strider are received from national LDWA. In normal times, these would be distributed to Committee members at each Committee meeting. They would then have discretion to place them wherever they see fit. Since the first lockdown began, there has been no convenient way for me to distribute them, especially since I am no longer driving. The extra copies, therefore, are going to waste.

Received and responded to emails. Few phone enquiries.
Unwanted e-mails are increasingly rare - spam filters and unsubscribing seem to be working.

Some Internet Service Providers are still automatically sending legitimate e-mail correspondence from ldwa.org.uk addresses to junk or spam mail folders. This has been a problem since 2019. The NEC is well aware of this and has been working to find a solution. There has been partial progress in the last two weeks but the issue is not fully resolved. Members who have not been receiving such e-mails but think that they should be should stay patient and meanwhile check their spam filters on a regular basis.

This is my last Secretary's report to the Group. I have decided not to stand for re-election this year after five years in the position. I wish to thank my present and former colleagues on the Committee, and especially Gill, who has become a continuous source of information for my weekly updates and has produced updates when I have otherwise been engaged.

(c) Treasurer – Peter Engledow

The Accounts have been prepared for 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020. Total balance on bank is now £6784.11. There has been very little activity of course since the Covid restrictions came into force.

The accounts have been checked and found to be in order. They will be signed if approved by the AGM.

SI entries continues to be a very effective method of accepting event entries, making my job easier and, I am sure, leading to higher numbers of entries to events. Let's hope we can run some events soon.

SIE rules have changed a little in response to Covid. In future event receipts will be paid in stages in stages up to the date of the event, with 50% of the revenue being paid to us after the event.

Donations made during the year were;

Date	Detail - Donations	Account	Amount
01/11/19	Northumberland		£100.00
10/03/20	LDWA		£232.00
10/03/20	LDWA		£357.00

Minor costs under Miscellaneous were;

Date	Detail – Miscellaneous	Account	Amount
15/10/19	Local Groups Meeting		£45.00

Any events during the year were run at a surplus and any additional fee received from non-members has been gifted to LDWA centre.

Given the healthy balance in the bank I do not feel that it is necessary to recommend the re-introduce the annual membership fee.

As always, suggestions for how we use our funds are always welcomed by the committee.

Unless there are any questions, we now need a motion passed to accept the accounts so that they may be adopted.

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BEDS BUCKS AND NORTHANTS GROUP LDWA
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
1ST OCTOBER 2019 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2020

INCOME	2020	2019
MERCHANDISE		£160.20
MISCELLANEOUS		£235.00
PICK N MIX 20	£248.80	
HH20	£2047.01	
SS19	£1410.03	£939.80
HH19		£1149.48
KANTER 19		£1354.24
TOTAL	£3705.84	£5961.02

EXPENDITURE	2020	2019
PRINT & POST	£91.09	£91.30
MERCHANDISE	£60.00	
EQUIPMENT	£820.72	
DONATIONS	£689.00	£154.00
AGM	£310.00	£330.00
MISCELLANEOUS	£45.00	£137.99
CHRISTMAS WALK	£15.21	
PICK N MIX 18		£47.34
SS19	£1968.89	
HH20	£1230.11	
KANTER 19		£1314.37
HH19		£888.86
SS18		£1548.72
KANTER 20	£64.80	
TOTAL	£5294.82	£4512.58

(d) Social Walks – Mary Knight

The year started with full walk programmes and agreement that where leaders for the walk programme were not found in time for the Strider deadline, the programme would be published in Strider with 'walk leader required'. For the short time that this was in place it worked well and in the future I do not think it is necessary to attempt to fill every date in advance when clearly it is difficult to find walk leaders who are able to commit to dates many months in advance.

No sooner had the new format for the programme been agreed and implemented and all walks were cancelled due to lockdown. After much effort from LDWA nationally it was agreed that we would come under the umbrella of Sports England, when restrictions were lifted we would be able to walk in a group with up to 30. The committee discussed this at length and agreed that this was probably too high a number for a single walk and walk leader. The final number would be down to the walk leader but the recommendation was for 15. Most walk leaders were more comfortable leading with a smaller number of their choice.

Limited numbers meant that we could not publish a programme in the normal way, instead outline information was put on the BBN website, those wishing to participate in a walk were to contact the leader directly and the details of the start were then sent to participants directly. This worked well for the short time that it was in place.....
 and then came lockdown number 2 which is where we find ourselves today.

Not only do we thank everyone who managed to lead a walk this year but also all of those who put in the time consuming effort to identify routes and contribute to walk programmes which unfortunately were not able to go ahead. Our thanks also go to Gill Bunker for the significant amount of additional work required to constantly update the website.

Stay Safe

(e) Membership - Dave Findel-Hawkins

I regularly (normally at beginning of each month) supply Norman Corrin with details of any new BBN Primary members so he can welcome them to the group.
 Up until the first lockdown I put the walks register on the walk details entry on the BBN pages of the LDWA

website. Gill has been doing this since lockdown ended as the risk analysis also has to be stored. Thanks to everyone who assists in taking these registers.

Membership at end of September: 446 Primary members, 357 Associate members.

(f) Merchandise – Gill Bunker

Group clothing can now be purchased online via the BBN shop on the PECO (Custom Sports Kit) website. There is a link to this on our website. Dave Findel-Hawkins and Mary Knight have BBN mugs and buffs for sale.

(g) Equipment – Lynn Yorston

As far as I have been informed, the equipment list is fully up to date and can be viewed on our website. The three weeks' notice of equipment being required works well. It is all kept in attics and we need that time to assemble and pack the goodies ready for collection. **The collection, cleaning and prompt return of all equipment is the responsibility of the event organiser.**

I am willing to still store the goodies as noted and shall continue co-ordinating the equipment list if the committee so wishes.

(h) Website – Gill Bunker

- Information, route descriptions and results added for events
- Inputted group walks onto the LDWA website
- News kept up to date, including updated information about group walks.

(i) Newsletter – Gill Bunker

- The usual three Newsletters this year – Spring (February), Summer (June), Autumn (October)
- The Summer and Autumn issues were online only – no hard copy. If I continue to be responsible for the Newsletter, I intend for future issues to be online only. Producing the Newsletter in lockdown was a revelation to me. It was so easy and much quicker to put the Newsletter together, save it as a pdf, pop it on the website, and it was all done and ready for the link to be circulated via one of Peter's Updates.
- Generally a good and varied supply of articles from members. Thank you to all who contributed this year. The Summer "*How I came to join the LDWA*" was particularly successful.

(j) Local Groups Rep – Peter Simon

The annual local groups representative weekend took place this year by videoconference on Zoom on 13-15 November. There were three substantive sessions on the Friday and Saturday evenings and the Sunday morning. Terry Brown and I represented BBN.

The Sunday session covered mainly topics suggested in advance by local groups or their representatives regarding policy on many of the issues that concern them. The agenda for the session is attached as a separate document.

I expect eventually to receive an information pack on the weekend containing full minutes. The relevant bits will then be posted on the Website and members will be informed.

Item 6(a)

BBN Greensand Ridge Benches - Roy Carter

There are 6x BBN benches on the Greensand Ridge walk of which all but one need fixing or reinstalling. The committee started a project last year to try and refresh them, in partnership with Greensand Country.

Discussions ensued resulting in BBN getting all 6 + more benches promised and installed by them. The committee agreed to donate £1000 to the project at the beginning of this year.

However, the pandemic has resulted in Greensand Country having to reprioritise their projects.

Item 9(c)

Midsummer Meanders – Sara Waldron

The committee decided to run a social day with some shorter walks, fun activities and food. This was seen as a way of connecting with members who aren't able to take on full day walks and to spend time in a more social setting than for example a challenge event.

The date was set for 20th June, The village hall in Milton Bryan was booked and we'd already planned and walked out some of the routes. Then Covid struck. So the village hall has now been rebooked for June 19th 2021

Item 7(a) Report of Completed Events (1/10/2019-30/09/2020)

(i) STEPPINGLEY STEP - Sunday 17th November 2019 - Merrian Lancaster

We have three SS events, Shillington Shuffle, Sundon Saunter and Steppingley Step, taking it in turns annually in November. Although each event starts from Barton-le-Clay, the routes are different and each event has a choice of three distances, 26ish, 18ish and 12ish miles. This year it was the turn of Step Step, completing the third cycle organised by the current team.

In early October, we reached our entry limit of 300, with subsequent entries going onto a waiting list. Mike Hyland, our entries secretary, is really enthusiastic about getting 300 people to turn up on the day by encouraging people to let him know if they can't make it, so releasing a place to someone on the waiting list. Eventually 47 withdrew and we expected 292 on the day; only 15 people didn't turn up, that's just a smidge over 5% no-shows. Entries came from 20 different LDWA groups.

All routes go up Sharpenhoe Clappers, getting the lungs working early on, and with good views of the trees in autumn colours. Routes also visit Harlington, Steppingley, Flitwick, Pulloxhill, with the water tower that features on the event badge (this year with added birds and balloons) and Ampthill Park, with checkpoints at Westoning, Flitton and Ampthill. All routes have mud.

We're very lucky to have a good bunch of volunteers including some on car park duty who then go and do the event, some who come once a year to help, one who went for a cycle ride then donned the marigolds and a family who look after one of the checkpoints. Many thanks to all of them and particularly Lynn Yorston, who is leaving the organising team after 9 years arranging the refreshments; she'll be back next year to serve the beer....yes, we have a barrel of Malt the Brewery beer; this year it was Moderation, 3.4%.

Those who complete all three SS events, any distance, in any order, are presented with a special certificate and badge, with accompanying fanfare. 64 people qualified this year - 25 their first triple, 22 their second and 17 their third. Those 17 have completed every SS event so earned two embellishments and extra fanfare. Very silly, but all good fun.

The entry fee for the SS events is £7 for LDWA members and £10 for non-members. We hire a van, have a barrel of beer, don't charge for badges, make a donation to Air Ambulance, give the non-member supplement to the LDWA and make a small surplus. A few years ago we used the surplus to buy 100 sets of metal cutlery in IKEA for £60 and had intended to buy plastic plates and bowls at the same time but have managed to gather sufficient from members, friends, families and the Brownies. We're now looking to buy a couple of pairs of marigolds in BBN burgundy, if you can help, please get in touch.

(ii) HANNINGTON HIKE - 1st March 2020 - Alan Leadbetter

Having switched the event from July to March, I was not sure how it would go. As the entries went up it looked as if it was a good decision. With the limit of 200 reached by mid-February and with 30 on a waiting list, the decision was made to raise the limit to 240 and everybody on the waiting list was invited to join. When entries closed on 27th February a total of 235 had entered.

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total
Entries	9	18	41	107	78	253
Cancelled	1	1	2	8	6	18
	8	17	39	99	72	235

Anytime Anywhere	1	Kent	2	Surry	2
Beds, Bucks & Northants	71	Lincolnshire	3	Sussex	1
East Lancashire	3	London	5	Thames Valley	8
Essex & Herts	8	Norfolk & Suffolk	13		
Heart of England	10	North Yorkshire	2		
Irregulars	1	Sherwood	5	Non-Members	100

Had a few worries along the way. The badges that I ordered nearly did not arrive in time. I received an email in January say that due to some of the materials coming from China there will be a delay in delivery (due to Covid19). Having not heard from them by mid-February I emailed to find out how things were progressing and was told that they were in production and should be dispatched the week beginning 2/3/20. I replied that as the event was on the 1/3/20 it would be nice to have them for the event day. Got a reply say that there was a production meet on 24/2/20 and will ask if it could be possible to produce them soon. On Wed 26/2/20 was told that the badges were in the office and would be dispatched by courier. I got home from work on Thursday to find that the badges had arrived and been left with a neighbour. What a relief.

Had 9 marshals + myself for the marshals' walk on 1st February. 1 on 27 miles route, 2 on 18.5 mile route and 7 on 14 mile route. Thank you.

Liz Sheffield	27	Karen Earwicker	14	Mike Hyland	14
David Findel-Hawkins	18	Gill Bunker	14	Dave Yorston	14
Merrian Lancaster	18	Norman Corrin	14	Steve Bacon	14

With all routes checked and amendments made to the route descriptions, these were then put on the website.

8 entries withdrew before the day and with 29 no shows that left 198 to start their chosen route.

27 Miles	18.5 Miles	14 Miles
98	60	40

There was a misunderstanding amongst us about start times, we only recorded two start times, 08.00 and 09.00. Some may have started before 0800, many started sometime between 08.00 and 09.00, and some started after 09.00. On the list for next time, 2022, will be to have a rolling start.

6 entries retired (4 at checkpoint 1 and 2 at checkpoint 2). 5 entries missed out a checkpoint but still finished. A couple of runners went off on the walkers' start, were 15 minutes early at CP1 and 45 minutes early at CP2. They did not wait for the checkpoint to open. At the finish, when asked why they had done this, they said they thought they were only five minutes early at CP2 and did not want to wait because they had things to do in the afternoon. When told they would be recorded as missing CP2 and not get a certificate, one said "well in the whole scheme of things, it's such a small event, it doesn't really matter". If that was the case why did they enter in the first place (makes me wonder)?

	Male 48%	Female 52%	
Walkers	62	71	133
Runners	34	31	65
	96	102	

Walkers	Male	Female	Runners	Male	Female
27 miles	34	25	27 miles	21	18
18.5 miles	20	23	18.5 miles	9	8
14 miles	8	23	14 miles	4	5
	62	71		34	31

A big THANK YOU to all who helped before or on the day without their help this event would not be able to go ahead. We had a few new marshals this year, some doing it for the first time, Sophie Butler, Betty Sturgeon, Steve Bacon and Frank Hodgson. Hope they enjoyed themselves and will help on future events.

Marshals

Car Parking: Andrew Gilbertson, Steve Bacon and Frank Hodgson

Registration: David Findel-Hawkins, Merrian Lancaster and Gordon Shaughnessy

HQ Kitchen: Karen Earwicker, Liz Sheffield, Andrew Gilbertson, and Sue Leonard (pm)

Checkpoint 1: Gill Bunker, Norman Corrin, Derek Jacob, Anne Addison, Betty Sturgeon and Sophie Butler

Checkpoint 2/3: Terry Brown, Dave & Lynn Yorston, Mike & Sandra Hyland and Frank Hodgson

Accounts			
Income	£	Expenditure	£
SiEntries	2047.01	HQ & Halls	435.50
		Badges	266.44
		Food	340.27
		Van & Fuel	188.00
Total	2047.01	Total	1230.21

Income minus expenditure = Surplus – donation = **total surplus**
£2047.01 – £1230.21 = £816.80 - £400.00 = **£416.80**

With a surplus of £816.80, a donation of £400 was made to the LDWA website fund.
(100 Non-members paying £4 more than members).
With the donation taken away that leaves a surplus of £416.80

The surplus food from the event was donated to NHS staff at Stoke Mandeville

I would like to thank everybody who took part or helped on the event and hopefully see you all next time in 2022, with some route amendments.

Item 7(b) Future Events Update

(i) CHILTERN KANTER 2021 – Roy Carter

We have paid a deposit of £64.80 to book Pitstone Memorial Hall for 7th March 2021 before the pandemic struck. Subsequently the LDWA NEC, the BBN committee and I have had to rethink Challenge Event arrangements for 2021.

We have decided to make the Chiltern Kanter an Anytime Challenge to run from February into April 2021, centred around the original date.

- The Long, Medium and Short routes have been designed and recce'd during summer into autumn
 - Grid References and Q&A have been identified and listed, with just a few adjustments to reconcile
 - The flyer is prepared with NEC disclaimer (being it's unsupported) and almost ready to publish
 - Event is listed in Strider for 7th March 2021 but will be from 1st February to 11th April in SiEntries
 - The badge without year date has been designed and 300 ordered, costing £277.20 (reusable)
 - The cost of entry is £5.00 and only for LDWA members
 - Certificates are to be prepared and whether to send to entrants by post or by email discussed
 - Risk Assessment to meet LDWA Covid-19 restrictions to be done (no official form yet)
- Next CK is planned for Sunday 5th March 2023 from Pitstone Memorial Hall (deposit taken?)

(ii) PICK & MIX – 6th June 2021 – Dave & Lynn Yorston

We have the school reserved for the whole day on Sunday 6th June 2021 but no deposit has been paid. This is the normal venue for the walk base. Again, the water stop for the longest loop would be in our own garage at no cost.

We purchased new badges for the event this year so they are being held at our own personal cost until the event can take place.

We are happy to go ahead with this event as stated **so long as the following conditions are in place.**

- The school is happy for us to proceed with the event
- There is a useable generic risk assessment from the NEC (or we are allowed to use the generic one we have always used) and not have to complete the massive step by step one the NEC appear to be asking us for.
- That the COVID restrictions have been eased enough to make it an enjoyable and normal event.

If these conditions are not able to be met, then we would propose to hold the event over until 2022.