



Beds, Bucks and Northants LDWA

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Hello Everyone. Lots to tell you about today.

Following last week's welcome news that group walks can recommence, albeit with limited numbers, the NEC have now confirmed that Anytime Challenges can also commence from 12th April.

Here is what is on offer for April.

Full details of all the walks and how to book your place can be found on the *Our Walks* page of the website. [Our Walks](#)

Monday 12th April the Chiltern Anytime Kanter opens and can be walked until Monday 31st May 2021 (**For LDWA members only**)
Entry is via SiEntries from 2nd April and all the information you need is here. [Chiltern Anytime Kanter 2021](#)

Thursday 15th April Harlington Loop 16
Leader: Therese Jamin 16 miles Group size 10 (leader + 9)

Sunday 18th April Harlington Loop 18
Leader: Therese Jamin 18 miles Group size 10 (leader + 9)

Therese writes:

Hello everyone

I will lead a walk starting from Harlington on Thurs 15th of April and a similar walk on the following Sunday 18th to accommodate as many walkers as possible as I will limit the numbers to 10, including myself. The Thursday loop will be about 16 miles and the Sunday loop 18 miles. It will be good to get walking together again. Please check the website for more details on how to book your place. As, regrettably, car sharing is not allowed unless participants are from same household or support bubble, the start and finish of the walk is very near Harlington train station. Looking forward to seeing some of you again soon.

Friday 23rd April St George's Day Quiz (Zoom)

Sunday 25th April Step Step into the Gardens
(National Gardens Open Day in Steppingley, visit 3)
Leader: Nigel Schofield About 18 miles (Step Step 18 mile route)
Group size 15 (leader +14)

Thursday 29th April Amongst the Windmills

Leader: Liz Sheffield 15 miles Group size 10 (leader + 9)

And a reminder that the **Pick & Mix Anytime Challenge Walk** will open on 24th May and run until 31st August 2021 (For LDWA members only)

Sara is now looking for walks to take us into the summer months. Please contact her if you can offer a walk for the future. Tel 07850 665454 bbn.walks@ldwa.org.uk
Available dates are [here](#)

St George's Day Quiz (Zoom) - Friday 23rd April

Back by popular demand – another BBN Zoom quiz for everyone to enjoy, No teams this time, play on your own or with family. It's for fun – you won't be asked your scores. Just join in and enjoy the evening. Let me know if you are interested and full joining instructions will be forwarded nearer the time.

LDWA Monthly Virtual Challenge

April's monthly challenge has been passed back to Lakeland group:

Don't be an April Fool - Join in with the [April A-Z Countryside Virtual Challenge](#). Every day in April we will be posting a topic on the Lakeland Facebook page relating to the beautiful countryside we all cherish so much.

Whilst out for your daily walk, see if you can take some pictures relating to the topic, then come back and post some pictures and perhaps some facts about what you have seen. Then fill in your miles on the spreadsheet linked below, and see what you can clock up in the month.

*No limits to how much you do, **everyone achieving over 100 miles will receive a virtual certificate** at the end of the month.*

<https://docs.google.com/.../1SmF7B3phxIk1SMFQGQSJ.../edit...>

You don't need to be a Facebook user to access the spreadsheet.

You can challenge yourself – every day you can get out for a walk, simply add your distance. It is amazing how a few short miles soon add up into a mega mileage. Enjoy your walking.

Opportunity For An IT Operations Manager

The NEC are looking for an enthusiastic volunteer to help them further develop the Association's IT resources. Please see the link below for details of this important opportunity to support the LDWA. This role is currently being advertised in Strider, on the LDWA website and via social media. If you are interested or want to find out more, please contact Madeleine Watson at secretary@ldwa.org.uk

[Opportunity For An IT Operations Manager](#)

Milton Keynes Community Boat 'Electra'

Frances and I are now the Volunteer Coordinators for the new Milton Keynes Community Boat 'Electra'. In summary the narrow boat will offer public cruises on the Grand Union canal around Milton Keynes. Although launch has been delayed by COVID we are looking to offer approximately 100 cruises this year.

We are looking for volunteer crew, specifically 'Cabin Hosts'. They would look after our guests inside the boat, whilst the Skipper cruises the boat, serving light refreshments and enjoying the company of all those on board. Full training will be given. We would hope that a Cabin host could offer approx 10 volunteering sessions this year. The boat will cruise 7 days a week, morning, afternoon and evenings so plenty of opportunity to fit into volunteers personal lives,

There is more information here: <https://www.bmkwaterway.org/mkcommunityboatelectra/>

One of our planned cruises, is a Walkers cruise where the public can hop on and off the boat at various stops and then walk back to where they left cars. This might be something we would look to offer BBN as a walk later in the year.

Chris Bent

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Nigel Schofield and The Case Of The Mystery Box - Conclusion

Greetings to all. Even adopting Sherlock's normal comment to Dr. Watson as it being a two pipe problem this conundrum was resolved by a keen geocache participant living in North Hertfordshire. The images shown in web links below confirm that this 'box' which is not a box as no internal void is a geocache.

Following many enquiries by Nigel to nearly all points North, South, East and West of Hitchin as to what this item was and the kindness of the Editorial Team for the Letchworth Arts and Leisure Group (Nigel is a Member) the object found in hedgerow near the Letchworth Greenway has been identified by its owners.

Apparently geocaches come in all shapes and sizes, from large boxes full of 'treasure' to swap, down to items the size of a thimble. Sometimes they are cunningly disguised, such as the one Nigel found. The only requirement is that there has to be space to include a paper 'logbook' somewhere to enable the finder to sign it to prove that they did!

In this geocache, the logbook is a piece of paper wrapped around a dowel, disguised as the 'perch' of a birdhouse (Steve Clarke please note) Push from the front and the container comes out the back - the lid screws off and the logbook for signing is inside. But the lid/screw on cover was not in situ at any time until the roof was found on its own hanging

from branch and 'box' was on the ground nearby in dense ground cover.

[Mystery solved!](#)

The geocacher reported that it did seem that this cache was damaged though - the whole thing is supposed to be suspended from the bush. In this instance hanging by green wire joined to the roof from a thin branch) Sometimes, sadly, they are found by chance and vandalised. At other times, it's simple wear and tear. In this case, maybe, an over-enthusiastic new geocacher ripped the roof off, assuming the logbook would be inside. No Void!!! Many new people have taken up the hobby over lockdown to entertain themselves and others on walks. Nigel advises that certain parts of the Letchworth Greenway are very popular for exercise and this nearby stretch doubles up with the Hitchin HOOP.

Nigel learnt that this cache was last found by a 'searcher' on 3 March 2021 and they didn't report a problem, but again, being relatively new geocachers, they may not have understood what it should look like! Thanks again from the geocacher to Nigel who made a rendezvous and handed over this geocache on 26 March.

Have a look at www.geocaching.com and [Mystery of a wooden box](#) for more info.

2025 LDWA Hundred

Norfolk and Suffolk are delighted to confirm that they will be hosting the 2025 Hundred.

And that age-old conundrum.

When you look for something, why is it always in the last place you look?

Because when you find it, you stop looking.

That's all for this week.

Gill Bunker

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To keep up-to date with the latest news about walking in the pandemic and how this has affected the LDWA, please see

<https://ldwa.org.uk/library/coronavirus2020.php>

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