

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2021 at 7.30 PM - BY ZOOM

Present: Terry Brown (Chairman), Gill Bunker (Secretary), Roy Carter, Peter Engledow (Treasurer), Mike Hyland (Events Co-ordinator), Mary Knight, Alan Leadbetter (Membership), Sara Waldron (Social Walks)

		Action
1.	Apologies: Norman Corrin	
	Recording: It was agreed the meeting would be recorded for Sarah Feal. (Sarah has been nominated to join the committee, but was unable to attend the meeting as an observer.)	
2.	Minutes of “Catch Up” Meeting (15th July 2021) and Matters Arising	
	It was agreed the Minutes were a correct record. Matters Arising would be picked up on the Agenda. It was noted that we have a volunteer, Gerald Davies, who should be included in our plans. Terry will contact him as we do appreciate his offer to help.	All/ Terry
3.	Reports	
(a)	Chair - Terry Brown	
	Since the last full meeting in May I have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kept up to date with NEC comms about the Covid pandemic and its impact on our Group Activities; thankfully this has calmed down a lot in the last couple of months as we gradually return to normal. • Helped as necessary with a range of general queries and issues that have arisen. • Contacted the NEC (Karen Pickersgill) about the need for a workshop on safeguarding which has been taken on board but not arranged yet. • Contacted the NEC (Julian White) about our Inclusion and Diversity discussion and the offer to try ideas that might be relevant to our Group; our response and offer were acknowledged but nothing further has been received. 	
(b)	Secretary - Gill Bunker	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday News: Circulated each week (except when away) • <i>Focus on BBN</i> in August Strider. • Emails from NEC - circulated/responded as necessary • LDWA50: Collected recipes and photos for proposed cookbook. • Spare Striders went to Beds Walking Festival 	
	Gill said she had sent two recipes to Julia Warman for the cookbook (with thanks to Dave Findel-Hawkins and Jim Robinson/Terry Brown); and she now has Margaret Skerman’s recipe to send on.	Gill
(c)	Treasurer - Peter Engledow	
	Report p.2-3. Peter said all bills are paid up-to-date so the balance is as stated. It was agreed to renew the Zoom licence for a further year (cost approx £140) as it is such a useful and “green” tool, saving both time and fuel. It was agreed that members can use the BBN Zoom for BBN related meetings.	Peter Gill

EXPENDITURE TO 14/10/2021

BBN LDWA			
Payment Summary			
	Total Costs		£ 1,511.90
		% of cost	Total
	Merchandise	5.688	£ 86.00
	Print Post	0.000	£ -
	Equipment	0.000	£ -
	Donations	42.463	£ 642.00
	AGM	0.000	£ -
	Christmas Walk	0.000	£ -
	SS 2019	0.000	£ -
	Hannington Hike 2020	0.000	£ -
	Misc	27.133	£ 410.22
	Chiltern Kanter 2021	24.716	£ 373.68
	Pick n Mix 2020	#DIV/0!	£ -

SUMMARY

Overall, nice to see a little action starting again. Finances remain sound and I am preparing the year end numbers for sign off (30/9/2021).

List of donations.

Date	Detail - Donations	Account	Amount
19/04/20	Ramblers		£375.00
01/06/21	Thames Valley Air Amb		£207.00
26/07/21	Beds Walking Festival		£60.00

Miscellaneous expenditure. Do we still require a Zoom licence?

Date	Detail - Miscellaneous	Account	Amount
12/11/20	Zoom Licence		£143.88
28/04/21	Triple Challenge Badges		£266.34

(d)	Membership - Alan Leadbetter	
	As of 10th October we have 842 members, with 457 primary and 385 associate.	
	Alan said there had been a significant increase in members joining. It was noted that limiting Shillington Shuffle entry initially to LDWA members only has contributed to the increase in membership. Alan has passed the names to Norman for his <i>New Member Welcome</i> . A "welcome to new members" to be included in the Newsletter.	Alan/ Gill
(e)	Challenge Walk Co-Ordinator - Mike Hyland	
	Shillington Shuffle: All up and running, entries up to 198 at the time of the	

	meeting. A waiting list will be started when the 200 limit is reached. Hannington Hike: Flyer on website and in Strider, in demo mode on SiEntries and will be ready to go live on 1st December 2021. Pick and Mix: Flyer on website and in Strider (Dec), will put in demo mode on SiEntries in January ready to go live 1st March 2022.	
(f)	Social Walks - Sara Waldron	
	<p>We have had a nice selection of walks offered since our last meeting. There was a noticeable and welcome increase in offers from leaders once number and booking restrictions were removed. The Easy Ambles are being well supported and are filling a need for some of our members without interfering with the full length walks. I would suggest continuing with them as long as leaders come forward.</p> <p>There are 2 Thursday and 2 Weekend slots still unfilled for the rest of the year. I am planning on putting the next year's Available Walk Dates up on the website soon as I've already had one enquiry. The dates will be every 2 weeks running on from the January dates below.</p> <p>Thursdays January 6th & 20th. Weekends January 1st/2nd, 15th/16th, 29th/30th.</p> <p>The BBN entry in Strider will continue to spell out the basis of our walks and contact details but in the main walkers will be directed to the website for walks and directions, Leaders seem to appreciate not having to commit too far in advance. This may be just a temporary Covid phenomenon but it will be interesting to see what the next year holds.</p>	
	Sara said the Thursday dates that remain to be filled for this year are 28th October and 25th November. The weekend dates are 7th November and 18th/19th December. To be mentioned in next Tuesday News.	Gill
	<p>It was agreed that dates for 2022 be added to the Available Walk Dates, commencing the year with the dates suggested by Sara. These dates are on the alternate week to Ivel Valley walks.</p> <p>Sara has had a couple of offers for next year.</p> <p>Alan said the Hannington Hike marshals' walk will be on 13th February 2022.</p>	Sara
	<p>Terry said some groups were still limiting numbers/asking for walkers to pre-book. Sara said most leaders were happy not to have to deal with time-consuming pre-booking, but two leaders had limited numbers (one due to leading in London, and the other due to restricted parking).</p> <p>Sara will offer leaders the opportunity to reduce numbers if they wish.</p>	
	Sara will do a mailshot to our existing walk leaders (via bulk email). Mary has a list of leaders from when she was walks secretary.	Sara/ Mary
(g)	Merchandising - Peter Engledow	
	All working well. Peter will write something for the Newsletter.	Peter
(h)	Equipment - Lynn Yorston	
	<p>No-one has informed me of any changes since my last report But if anyone knows different, please let me know I think it may be an idea if the committee and walk leaders who use the equipment could get together and decide if we need to keep all the goodies. There are some things like the 50 Melamine cups and saucers that have not been used in years. Could these be disposed of ? Maybe a chat at the AGM?</p>	
	It was agreed that a review of equipment was needed. All to look at the equipment list on the website.	All
(i)	Website & Social Media - Gill Bunker	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated News, challenge walk info, routes, results as needed etc Group walk photos copied from FB Took part in Zoom New Website Development Workshop 6.10.2021 BBN Twitter - Not sure how we are doing on Twitter etc BBN WhatsApp Group – slow start, four members	
	Gill gave a brief résumé of the New Website Development Workshop. The notes of the meeting had been circulated (and can be found in the LDWA Toolkit). Any further feedback needs to reach NEC by 29th October. A project manager is needed - to be mentioned in Tuesday News.	All/ Gill
(j)	Newsletter - Gill Bunker	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer issue circulated Autumn Newsletter – Deadline Wednesday 27th October Do we still need a Newsletter? Lack of contributions. FB has taken over – folk post photos after a walk. I feel it a waste of time now, when we are circulating news to members regularly via email, FB etc	
	There was some debate about the Newsletter. To be discussed at the AGM. Terry thought the Tuesday News could be circulated fortnightly.	AGM
(k)	Local Groups Representative 2020	
	Julie Cribb's meeting pack for the November 2020 LGRs meeting had been circulated.	
4.	INSURANCE ISSUES – INCIDENT REPORTS	
	There have been no reportable incidents.	
5.	LDWA	
(a)	Safeguarding No progress to report – see Chair's report, p.1.	
(b)	Inclusion & Diversity: No progress to report – see Chair's report, p.1	
(c)	LGR's meeting 12th/14th November 2021 (Haworth YHA)	
	Peter will be attending, but has not heard anything yet. Travel/accommodation costs to be reimbursed as necessary. Terry to check position.	Peter/ Terry
6.	LDWA HUNDREDS – Mary Knight	
(a)	2022 Trans Pennine (Friday 3rd/Sunday 5th June): BBN will be at CP2. Penistone, near Sheffield. The CP will be open 11.15am to 4pm on the Friday. Mary will ask for CP volunteers via the Newsletter.	Mary
(b)	2023 Elephant Bear & Bull: CP2 confirmed,	
(c)	2024 Speyside: There was a positive response to manning a CP.	
(d)	2025 Norfolk & Suffolk: No information yet.	
7.	BBN Challenge Events	
(a)	Pick & Mix Anytime 24th May - 31st August 2021 – Lynn & Dave Yorston	
	This year's event was held as an ANYTIME CHALLENGE from 24th May until 31st August 2021 for LDWA members only. The full accounts have been sent to Peter for settlement.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 32 entries through SiEntries • Only 20 claimed a certificate and are therefore on Alan's list for the triple • The event made a loss of £94.05 as we had already ordered a new badge before lockdown 																																																	
	Terry said only 32 entries was disappointing, but thanked Dave and Lynn for a good event. The badges remain in stock for the next event, so no big loss has occurred.																																																	
(b)	Shillington Shuffle 21st November 2021																																																	
	<p>No report, but plans are all in hand. Terry, Gill and Mary will be meeting with Dave F-H and Merrian ref the CPs and food on Wednesday 27th October. Hand Sanitisers: Mary had researched hands free sanitisers. She said they cost approx £140 and are battery powered if not connected to the mains, and needed a lot of battery. She therefore recommends a good supply of pump action sanitisers at HQ/CPs. As there appears to be plenty of helpers, Terry suggested that walkers' hands be squirted as they wait to give their walk number, outside if possible. Participants on each route at the time of the meeting are: 26 miles: 145 walkers, 18 miles: 36 walkers, and 12 miles: 17 walkers.</p>																																																	
(c)	Hannington Hike 6th March 2022 – Alan Leadbetter																																																	
	Making slow progress. All hall booking confirmed. Will order more badges and certificates. Marshals' walk on 13th Feb 2022. SiEntries open on 1st December.																																																	
	Numbers will be limited to 250, with priority to LDWA members until 1st January.	Alan/Mike																																																
	Alan will put an appeal for marshals in the Newsletter.	Alan																																																
	The Risk Assessment for the Shillington Shuffle can be used as a guide for the HH.	Alan																																																
(d)	Pick & Mix 2022 29th May 2022 – Lynn and Dave Yorston																																																	
	The 2022 event is booked at the same HQ for Sunday May 29th which is the week before the 100. It will take a slightly different format. The school has had extension works so we will have to re-think some of the parking. We are also planning to have the walkers outdoors but under cover. The entries are limited to 200 and the entry price is slightly increased.																																																	
(e)	Triple Challenge – Alan Leadbetter (Hannington Hike, Chiltern Kanter, Pick & Mix)																																																	
	<p>12 Badges and certificates have been sent out to those who have completed all three events, 7 people are eligible for their triple if they complete the next Hannington Hike in March 2022. 12 people will be eligible if they do the next Pick and Mix in 2022.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Hannington Hike 2022</td> <td colspan="4">Pick And Mix 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown</td> <td>Teresa</td> <td>Barnard</td> <td>Lesley</td> <td>Foot</td> <td>Susan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Busch</td> <td>Graham</td> <td>Boakye</td> <td>Christopher</td> <td>Hodges</td> <td>Sandra</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Davis</td> <td>Gerald</td> <td>Brockway</td> <td>Dee</td> <td>Neat</td> <td>Adam</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jenkins</td> <td>Steven</td> <td>Carpenter</td> <td>Andy</td> <td>Neat</td> <td>Anjane</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Keech</td> <td>Paul</td> <td>Carter</td> <td>Roy</td> <td>Oxley</td> <td>David</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Telfer</td> <td>Diana</td> <td>Davis</td> <td>Emma</td> <td>Porter</td> <td>Andrew</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vidler</td> <td>Philip</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Now that we are able to actual do the events do I have some certificates printed or do I carry on emailing the certificates to anyone who has completed all three</p>	Hannington Hike 2022		Pick And Mix 2022				Brown	Teresa	Barnard	Lesley	Foot	Susan	Busch	Graham	Boakye	Christopher	Hodges	Sandra	Davis	Gerald	Brockway	Dee	Neat	Adam	Jenkins	Steven	Carpenter	Andy	Neat	Anjane	Keech	Paul	Carter	Roy	Oxley	David	Telfer	Diana	Davis	Emma	Porter	Andrew	Vidler	Philip					
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	events?	
	It was agreed that certificates will be emailed out, with the walker's name inserted. Badges will be posted.	Alan
(f)	Wendover Gap Anytime Challenge – Lynn and Dave Yorston	
	This is still removed from our website.	
	We are not sure if this is because there is no Risk Assessment or because of long term HS2 works?	Lynn & Dave
8.	BBN Group Events	
(a)	Midsummer Meanders: See Item 9(a)	
(b)	Eastbourne Trip 27th/30th August 2021 / Future Trips	
	Roy reported on a very successful trip. Dee had written a few paragraphs to go with photos for the Tuesday News. Roy, as organiser, will write an article for the Newsletter.	Roy
	Roy is already planning next year's trip. More information will follow when he has checked the availability of accommodation.	Roy
(c)	AGM – 28th November 2021 – Lynn & Dave Yorston	
	Plans for the 2021 AGM are sorted. Dave will lead an 8 mile walk to start at 09.00 from the Ellesborough Parish Hall, Butlers Cross HP17 0TX where we will be able to use their car park. He will return to the cars by 12.00 noon We have reserved a maximum of 30 places at The Russell Arms opposite for our lunch. The meal will be served at 12.30 prompt. Pre-ordering is essential – the latest to be with Dave by November 21st at the Shillington Shuffle. No new bookings can be accepted after that but please, to make it easier for us, please email your choices asap. Email for AGM pre-orders - dave.yorston@btinternet.com Gill to circulate the menu please Each person will have their own 'tab' on the restaurant till to settle before leaving. We have booked Ellesborough Parish Hall, Butlers Cross HP17 0TX for the AGM meeting. We have permission to use their car park from 08.30 for the walk. We then have access to the hall from 13.00 until 17.00.	
	Roy is not able to attend.	
	Committee Reports needed by Friday 19th November so they can be placed on the website and the link circulated.	All/Gill
	The draft Agenda was amended.	Gill
	A £10 subsidy for members towards the AGM meal was agreed.	Peter
9.	BBN GENERAL	
(a)	2022 Celebrating LDWA 50th Anniversary	
	The NEC are hoping that all local groups will plan an event for the weekend of 18th/19th June 2022. It was agreed to hold the Midsummer Meanders that weekend. Sara to check whether Woburn Village Hall is available. Venues at Eversholt and Milton Keynes were also suggested.	Sara
	A possible 50th anniversary New Year lunch (10th January) has been mentioned.	

	A Grand Union Canal walk was agreed, from Linslade to Stoke Bruerne. Linear with coach, approx 24 miles. The date to be confirmed.	
(b)	2023 BBN's 40th Anniversary:	
	Ideas include Greensand Ridge Walk, MK Boundary Walk; Northampton Round, Cream Tea, Quiz.	
10.	DONATIONS/PROJECTS	
(i)	Projects:	
(a)	Greensand Ridge Benches	
	Following Terry and Roy's meeting with Jon Balaam, Greensand Trust on 1st October, Terry had circulated an email with both her notes and Jon Balaam's notes (see p9-11). It was agreed to proceed on the basis set out in the notes. Terry will contact Jon to confirm agreement. We would like the wording on the plaque simplified: <i>This bench on the Greensand Ridge Walk has been supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund through the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership and the Beds Bucks Northants Group of the Long Distance Walkers Association.</i> There may be the opportunity for future publicity when all the benches are installed.	Terry
(ii)	First Aid course/Emergency procedure at CPs	
	It was agreed to wait a little longer before arranging a date, but we need to check with Merrian that the First Aider is still available to host the course.	Merrian
	Terry commented that a document on the BBN website concerning a medical emergency contains wrong information.	Gill
	Terry said there is a useful item in the LDWA toolkit with a link to information about defibrillators and CPR.	Gill
	It was agreed that event organisers should be asked to note whether there is a defibrillator at or near a HQ/CP and include the location in the information given to marshals.	Event Orgs.
(iii)	Food Hygiene Training – Internet Courses	
	Gill and Mary will have a look. Terry asked whether the courses had been updated for Covid?	Gill/ Mary
(iv)	Banners/Laminated signs	
	Terry will look back at the paperwork from Metrosigns and progress.	Terry
(ii)	Donations Ask for members' ideas at the AGM.	AGM
11.	AOB.	
(i)	Right to Roam Campaign Terry had circulated an email <i>Help us call on the Treasury for a greater Right to Roam</i> with a template letter to be emailed in support. There were some reservations about advertising this. Terry to forward the email to the NEC for guidance.	Terry

12.	DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING	
	Thursday 27th January 2022 at 7.30 via Zoom	

**Item 10. (i)(a) Greensand Ridge Walk Benches
Terry's Note and Jon Balaam's Note.**

Roy and I have just had a productive Zoom meeting with Jon Balaam of the Greensand Trust about the 6 x replacement BBN, and 2 x new, benches on the Greensand Ridge Walk. Now that the Trust are fully back to work following Covid and furlough the project is progressing. I attach the note that Jon sent us which is a good summary of the proposals.

A few extra points:

- The cost of the project - £4k - covers construction, installation and LDWA and Greensand Country logo engraving for 8 benches, so £500 each bench.
- At the moment one bench is built, the other 7 will be made and the original 6 sites will be installed by the end of November.
- The 2 new locations are still to be agreed but likely to be from the list of sites we suggested last year – Segenhoe Church (Central Beds Council), Old Warden Tunnel (Wildlife Trust) or Woburn (Bedford Estate).
- As well as the logo carvings as shown in the diagram, there has to be a plaque to acknowledge funding sources which must include the National Lottery Heritage Fund – Jon has provided a 'starter for 10' wording – it needs to be shortened! Any other wording suggestions are welcome. I think we also need to get BBN on this plaque not just LDWA!
- The £4k doesn't include any ongoing maintenance of the benches but Jon suggests this is something that the Greensand Trust Rangers and their volunteers could do, covering costs by sponsorship, similar to what they do at Rushmere Country Park whereby people give £200 to cover the cost of both a plaque and bench maintenance for 10 years – the minimum bench design life. He envisages only one of these 'memorial sponsorship' plaques per bench, so they won't become a 'memorial free for all'! At the moment he only has one sponsor lined up – the lady at Leighton Buzzard who wants a plaque in memory of her husband that we already know about. He's not bothered if no more sponsors are identified in the short term as the benches are unlikely to need significant maintenance for several years.
- There will be some unveiling publicity in due course which we'll be involved with as a 'major funding partner'.
- The old benches will be removed at the same time as the new replacement is installed. The old, still intact, seat parts can be salvaged and if anyone would like one to keep as a memento or souvenir then that will be possible – I think there may be 3 or 4 still reasonably ok. This is something we could advertise in the Tuesday News.

Roy and I are very happy with the proposals, including the maintenance funding idea, and recommend that the Committee agree to proceed with the grant of £1000 towards the project on this basis.



The Greensand Trust

Greensand Ridge Walk Benches

Background:

As part of the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership, the Greensand Trust have secured funding from Central Beds Council, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Long Distance Walking Association to replace a series of benches along the Greensand Ridge Walk between Leighton Buzzard and Gamlingay. These benches have now largely fallen into disrepair and require replacement – the aim is to replace the existing 6 benches and potentially add a further two.

Bench design/type:

The benches are simple, backless timber benches using sustainably sourced UK hardwood timber. The dimensions are:

Height (from ground to top of seat, once installed): 500mm

Bench top dimensions: 1800mm x 300mm (min)

The benches will be sufficiently robust and require minimal maintenance. They will need to last for a minimum of 10 years under normal use and with minimal maintenance (guidelines for maintaining will need to be provided).

Logos and Acknowledgements:

The total cost of the project is £4,000. The benches are being funded by the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership and the Long Distance Walkers Association. Each bench will have the Greensand Country heart logo carved into them to acknowledge this contribution and promote the Greensand Country identity, as illustrated by the ‘view from above’:



The option of routing/engraving Long Distance Walkers Association logo is also offered, as indicated above.

A plaque will be inset to provide a bit more context. Example wording:

“This bench is one of a series installed on the Greensand Ridge Walk during 2021, and has been supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund through the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership, and the Long Distance Walkers Association”.

A further space for a plaque is potentially available, allowing them to be sponsored by individuals. One such individual has already come forward. A fee will be identified to cover the cost of the plaque and maintenance costs for a set period (e.g. 20 years, the lifetime of the predecessors). Any such plaque would be the same design/text format as the above.