



LDWA : BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2022
AT NORTHILL VILLAGE HALL, ICKWELL ROAD,
NORTHILL, BEDS SG18 3AA



The meeting commenced at 2.30 pm

Present: 19

Terry Brown, Gill Bunker, Chris Burns, Roy Carter, Norman Corrin, John Davies, Nick Emery, Peter Engledow, Sarah Feal, Dave Findel-Hawkins, Paul Huggins, Mary Knight, Merrian Lancaster, Brian Layton, Alan Leadbetter, David Sedgley, Gordon Shaughnessy, Val Thompson, Sara Waldron

Terry welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked Alan for organising the morning walk; the lunch and the hall, and Dave and Merrian for the AGM refreshments.

1.	APOLOGIES Ian Bradley, Jane Bradley, Dee Brockway, Graham Busch, Steve Clark, Roy Dunham, Karen Earwicker, Phil Friede, Frank Hodgson, Mike Hyland, Sandra Hyland, Daniel Jamin, Therese Jamin, Nigel Schofield, Mooi Simon, Peter Simon, Phil Vidler, Colin Watson, Dave Yorston, Lynn Yorston
2.	MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING The Minutes had been available on the website and it was agreed they could be taken as read. They were approved as a true record. Prop: Merrian Lancaster, Sec: Norman Corrin and Agreed unanimously. <u>Matters Arising:</u> Item 3(j) It had been agreed at the January committee meeting to discontinue the Newsletter Item 5(c) The first aid course had taken place at the end of October.
3.	REPORTS Terry reminded the meeting that the reports covered the reporting year of 1st October 2021 until 30th September 2022. It was agreed that all reports would be taken as read as they had been available to read on the website
(a)	Officers' Reports (i) Chair <i>Terry Brown</i> See Chair's Report p.4-6 (ii) Secretary <i>Gill Bunker</i> See Secretary's Report p.6 (iii) Treasurer <i>Peter Engledow</i> See Treasurer's Report and Accounts p.7-8 Proposal to Accept the Accounts It was proposed that the Accounts be approved, Prop: Alan Leadbetter, Sec: Sarah Feal and Agreed unanimously. There were no questions arising from the Officers' reports.
(b)	Other Reports (i) Membership <i>Alan Leadbetter</i> See report p.8 (ii) Challenge Walk Co-ordinator <i>Mike Hyland</i> See report p.8-9 (iii) Social Walks <i>Sara Waldron</i> See report p.9 (iv) Local Groups Representative <i>Peter Engledow</i> Peter had attended the recent LGRs meeting (18th/20th November). He confirmed he would prepare a note of the items discussed which would be circulated. There should be a full report in April 2023 Strider. There were no questions arising from these four Officers' reports.

4.	ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE			
	Election of Officers			
	Terry indicated that both she and Peter had now completed five years as Chair and Treasurer respectively but were both willing to continue for one more year only.			
	The following nominations were received by the closing date of 30th October 2022. As a single nomination was received for each position, there was no need for a vote.			
	Position	Nominee	Proposer	Second
(a)	Chair	Terry Brown	Val Thompson	Francoise Bannister
(b)	Secretary	Gill Bunker	Chris Bent	Clive Haynes
(c)	Treasurer	Peter Engledow	Mary Knight	Adrian Moody
(d)	Election of Committee Members			
	Terry said two committee members Alan Leadbetter and Norman Corrin were standing down, but Alan will continue to organise the Hannington Hike and Norman has agreed to continue with his new member welcome.			
	Member	Sara Waldron	Francoise Bannister	John Davies
	Member	Roy Carter	John Davies	Mike Bowley
	Member	Mary Knight	Merrian Lancaster	David Findel-Hawkins
	Member	Mike Hyland	Graham Missing	Norman Corrin
	Member	Sarah Feal	Gill Bunker	Beryl Bowley
	Member	Chris Burns	Terry Brown	Dee Brockway
	This left one vacant committee position for which a single nomination was received at the meeting:			
	Member	Nick Emery	Merrian Lancaster	Chris Burns
	The seven committee members were elected en bloc.			
	Group Equipment: Non-committee: Dave Findel-Hawkins has agreed to look after the group's equipment.			
(e)	Cheque Signatories: Peter Engledow, Terry Brown, Gill Bunker (unchanged).			
5.	CHALLENGE EVENTS			
(i)	Shillington Shuffle 21st November 2021 Merrian Lancaster See Report p.9			
(ii)	Hannington Hike 6th March 2022 Alan Leadbetter See Report p.9-10			
(iii)	Pick & Mix 29th May 2022 Lynn & Dave Yorston See Report p.10			
	There were no questions arising from these three reports.			
	Future Events Update			
(i)	Chiltern Kanter 5th March 2023 Roy Carter See report p.10			
(ii)	Pick & Mix 4th June 2023 Lynn & Dave Yorston See report p.10			
(iii)	Steppingley Step 2023 Dave Findel Hawkins			
	The event date is Sunday 19th November 2023, with the marshals' walk on Sunday 29th October 2023.			
	There were no questions arising from these three reports.			
6.	GROUP ACTIVITIES			
(i)	Future LDWA Hundred Checkpoints Mary Knight See report p.10			
	Mary added she would be asking for marshals for the EBB shortly.			
(ii)	Isle of Man Trip August 2022 Roy Carter See report p.11			
	Roy confirmed he was planning a 4 day trip for 2023 around the August Bank Holiday weekend. Probably an Alpha Self-Drive trip.			

(iii)	<i>Celebrating BBN 40th Anniversary 2023 Terry Brown</i> See proposed programme p.11-12
	Terry said she, Gill, Mary and Sarah had formed an BBN40 team and she outlined the current progress of plans. The meeting agreed that these plans could be taken forward.
7.	DONATIONS/PROJECTS – Members’ Ideas
(i)	Greensand Ridge Benches <i>Roy Carter</i> See report p.12
(ii)	Proposal that BBN join the Bedford to MK Waterway Trust – David Sedgley
	I'd like to suggest that BBN join the Bedford to MK Waterway Trust. It's just £30 per year for organisations. I think it's something we should support as eventually, when completed, it will provide a wildlife & walking (as well as boating) corridor between the Grand Union Canal & the river Ouse. They have now built the wharf on the Ouse in Kempston. Some of the infrastructure on the route is also in place & they have repeatedly led walks along much of the route. I've been a member for at least 10 years & have been amazed at progress.
	There was a brief discussion and it was agreed that a decision would be made at the 19th January committee meeting.
8.	LDWA Matters
(i)	Terry said that BBN had put on two events during the summer to celebrate the LDWA's 50th anniversary, the Midsummer Meanders day at Woburn on 18th June and the group walk A Grand Union of Three Counties on 30th July. Both events had been enjoyed by everyone who took part. (See Chair's report p.5-6)
(ii)	Terry confirmed there were no health and safety/insurance issues to report to the LDWA.
(iii)	She also said that the NEC were sending update/news emails regularly to all members, so everyone was being kept up to date with matters at a national level.
9.	AOB None
10.	2023 AGM Date/Venue Alan Leadbetter
	Next year's AGM will take place at Great Doddington Memorial Hall, Northants at 2.30 pm on Sunday 26th November 2023 with a meal at The Stags Head. The morning walk will take in Summer Leys Nature Reserve and the River Nene.
	The meeting closed at 3.30pm

REPORTS

ITEM 3(A) OFFICERS' REPORTS

(i) Chair *Terry Brown*

This is a brief overview of the Group's activities for our reporting year - 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022; more detailed reports have been written by those directly involved in specific aspects of the Group's activities during the year. The headline is that we've gradually been able to return to more like our normal activities this year which has been a huge relief!

Your Committee – myself, Gill Bunker, Peter Engledow, Sara Waldron, Mary Knight, Alan Leadbetter, Roy Carter, Mike Hyland, Sarah Feal and Norman Corrin – met formally three times during the reporting year. We continued to meet virtually using our Zoom account; it's convenient, saved personal time and travel costs as well as being environmentally friendly.

25 members attended the 2021 AGM held at Ellesborough in November organised by Dave and Lynn Yorston. All the existing Officers and Committee members were re-elected with Sarah Feal joining the Committee for the first time. I extend my thanks to them all for their support and commitment this year.

Our Group Secretary, Gill continued to do an outstanding job. As well as organising the Committee and AGM meetings and dealing with LDWA NEC matters, she produced the excellent weekly Update emails. Gill also looks after the BBN website, Facebook page and WhatsApp Group. This year she's also been instrumental in the organisation of our LDWA 50th anniversary events, of which more later. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated, efficient and organised Group Secretary. Our grateful thanks to Gill for all she does for us and the LDWA.

Following discussion at the AGM and considering other feedback, the Committee decided at its January meeting that we should stop producing a BBN Newsletter as it had pretty much been superseded by the weekly Update. It was time consuming to produce and contributions had been thin on the ground. We felt that BBN and LDWA NEC news could be cascaded quicker using the Update email and it could still include articles and news from members about their exploits and the like.

Many thanks to Treasurer Peter Engledow for continuing to look after our finances so well. It's been the busiest year for a while with income and expenditure for challenge events back on the books and two LDWA 50th anniversary events. We've made a few donations this year – to Stepney City Farm for use of facilities on a social walk, Thames Valley Air Ambulance for the Pick & Mix, Bedford Walking Festival, the Greensand Ridge replacement bench project and to the LDWA website fund.

Please let the Committee know if you have any ideas for donations we could make – they must reflect the activities of our Group and the LDWA.

As well as being our Treasurer, Peter is our rep at the national Local Group meetings; he also looks after our Twitter account and the Peco online BBN shop for Group badged gear.

Sara Waldron, Social Walks Secretary, continued to coordinate our social walks programme which picked up nicely following the relaxation of Covid rules. The system of having available walk dates on the website seems to work well but we continue to need leaders, new and experienced, to satisfy demand – so please consider leading a walk for the Group in the coming year.

Sara also inputs our walk details onto the website and keeps our Group's social walk information in Strider under review. Thank you, Sara, and everyone who led a walk during the year, especially those who led for the first time, and thanks to everyone who came out to walk.

Sarah Feal has taken on the job of adding our Group's social walk GPX files to the website walks database. This is a fairly new venture by the LDWA and walk leaders are encouraged to pass on their GPX files to Sarah to

upload.

We are pleased to have had some 'Easy Amble' social walks during the year. The original idea of Phil Hastings, these came about a bit by accident when, after hip replacements, Phil couldn't walk the distance or pace of normal social walks. At the end of the first Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, Phil offered to devise and lead some shorter routes (max 10 miles) and slower pace (2.5-2.7mph) that he could manage himself. It's apparent that there's still a demand for these walks for those who are feeling the effects of age and/or injury or illness, members who for whatever reason prefer to do a shorter walk on that particular day and for potential new members who want to try an easier LDWA walk first before committing to join. It's been fantastic that other members have embraced the concept and led an Easy Amble this year.

It has made us much more aware of the needs of those who, for a variety of reasons, aren't physically able to do what they once did but who enjoy the ethos and camaraderie of the LDWA and want to continue to be as active as possible.

In conjunction with Essex & Herts Group, we submitted a write up about the Easy Amble concept to the LDWA's Inclusion and Diversity lead who was very impressed!

Membership matters - Alan Leadbetter has looked after our new member notifications and Norman Corrin made contact to welcome them with a phone call and/or a letter. We've continued to get quite few new Primary and Associate members each month this year and this is such an important job in establishing communication, thank you both.

Challenge Walk Co-ordinator, Mike Hyland, has had a more 'business as usual' year, liaising with our Challenge walk organisers, the SiEntries team and event entrants. Mike is also a master at managing event waiting lists and makes sure that our events are as full as possible giving minimal 'no-shows' on the day. Thanks for your fantastic work Mike.

We were relieved to be able to put on our three challenge events again during the year – the Shillington Shuffle in November, the Hannington Hike in March and the Pick & Mix in May. All were well supported and we received a lot of very encouraging and positive feedback. Huge thanks to all the organisers, route checkers and marshals for making these such good events.

We have reviewed our checkpoint hygiene and food safety practices in the light of Covid 19 and updated LDWA guidance and have promoted the Food Safety Level 1 and the Food Allergy and Intolerance on-line training course.

We were delighted to be able to run a BBN Checkpoint (CP) for the LDWA Trans-Pennine 100 event in June. Thanks to Mary Knight, our 100 Checkpoint Organiser, and her team who saw walkers through a very well run CP2 at Penistone. Mary's calm and organised approach was invaluable on what was a very busy CP. Well done also to Dave Findel-Hawkins and Merrian Lancaster who gave everyone, literally, a right royal welcome at Elsecar, the last CP – you'll have to see the pictures! I should also say here that Dave provides the first point of contact between future 100 event organisers and the Group about possible checkpoints – many thanks to him for doing that job.

Congratulations to all BBN members who took part in the Trans-Pennine Hundred whether you completed or not – by all accounts it was a tough event.

We put on two events to celebrate the LDWA's 50th Anniversary.

The first event was on Saturday 18th June when we resurrected the twice postponed Midsummer Meanders plan to put on a day of walks with refreshments and lunch based at Woburn Village Hall. And what a day it was! Over 50 members, past and present, enjoyed a choice of two short (4 mile) or long (8/9 mile) routes in the morning and afternoon. Our catering dream team - Mary Knight and husband Dennis, produced a most delicious ploughman's lunch with all the trimmings followed by strawberries and cream. We rounded the day off with tea and cakes. The walks were led by Sara Waldron, Gill Bunker and myself. Thanks to everyone who came, baked a cake, helped in the kitchen and helped to set up and clear up. Thanks also to Steve Clark who

was our official photographer - you can see some other photos and a link to Steve's here [Beds, Bucks and Northants LDWA - Midsummer Meanders - Saturday 18th June 2022](#).or here [LDWA at 50: BBN's Big Walk meanders | Flickr](#)

We had a huge amount of great feedback, especially from those who came and now find it difficult to walk longer distances. We wanted the day to be as inclusive as possible – a few people just came to chat with acquaintances old and new and that was great!

The second event on Saturday 30th July was a linear walk along the Grand Union Canal through our area, appropriately named 'A Grand Union of Three Counties! This was organised by Gill Bunker, Sara Waldron and Sarah Feal. Walkers met bright and early at Leighton Buzzard Station to board the coach to Stoke Bruerne, although unfortunately a rail strike put paid to any use of the railway to get there! Of 23 walkers on the day, 13 members walked the whole 27 miles back to Leighton Buzzard with others clocking up between 4½ and 18½ miles in various opt in and out sections during the day. Thanks also to Dianne Sutton who led the 16½ milers to Milton Keynes centre. The weather was good and it was a very enjoyable day for everybody – possibly helped by three of our four stops being at canal side pubs! Walkers also got a certificate! You can see some photos here [Beds, Bucks and Northants LDWA - A Grand Union of Three Counties - Saturday 30th July 2022](#)

Our thanks again to Roy Carter for organising another brilliant Group holiday based this year on the Isle of Man at the end of August. With 5 days of interesting walks the trip was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by the 17 members who went. During the week we looked forward to seeing some fantastic pictures of their daily exploits on the BBN Facebook page.

Dave and Lynn Yorston have taken a well-deserved step back this year from their long-standing role as 'SS event' organisers (since they took over from John Nickerson in 2011) and maintaining the Group's equipment list. I'm pleased to say that they are happy to continue to organise the, now annual, Pick & Mix and Dave will continue to look after the SS event finances. Our thanks go to them both for such a long and loyal service to the group.

Dave and Lynn have also been responsible for the storage of group equipment and maintenance of the list of items held, and I am delighted to say that Dave Findel-Hawkins has agreed to take this over. Thank you, Dave.

Thanks to everyone who has participated in any way in a Group activity or event and for your support in the last year.

(ii) Secretary Gill Bunker

It has been brilliant to see things getting back to normal in our walking world since the last AGM. I've had a busy but enjoyable 12 months to report on:

- Tuesday News circulated each week, hopefully keeping members updated throughout the year
- Emails from the NEC: Circulated and responded to as necessary
- attended a couple of LDWA Local Group Officer Zooms, one reference the LDWA website, the second a general update and a call for volunteers
- Continued to use Zoom for this year's three committee meetings
- BBN website kept updated with photos from group walks and challenge event information, route descriptions, finishing times etc
- LDWA 50th Anniversary Recipe Book still awaited
- I've done the Level 1 Food Safety Course – informative
- Photos with a few words about BBN's LDWA50 celebrations (Midsummer Meanders/A Grand Union of Three Counties) submitted for inclusion in December Strider.

(iii) Treasurer *Peter Engledow*

The Accounts have been prepared for 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022. Total balance on bank is now £5,694.74. Following the lifting of Covid restrictions it is pleasing to see we are active as a group again, and this has of course generated some revenue.

The inflationary pressures that are undoubtedly with us for a while has had little effect so far.

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 despite the rule changes last year. Overall, the staged payment to us has had little impact so far; this will be monitored though as more events are being staged.

Donations made during the year were;

Date	Detail - Donations	Account	Amount
24/01/22	Greensand Benches		£1,000.00
23/03/22	Stepney		£25.00
08/07/22	Beds Walks Festival		£60.00

These were as expected and authorised by the committee.

Minor Income and Expenditure under Miscellaneous were;

			Income	Expenditure
18/10/21	Woburn Village Hall			£130.00
25/10/21	Local Groups Meet			£45.00
30/11/21	Zoom			£143.88
23/02/22	Bunker	Canal	£5.00	
25/02/22	Read	Canal	£5.00	
28/02/22	Waldron	Canal	£5.00	
03/03/22	Bills Coaches	Canals		£59.00
04/03/22	Davis	Canal	£5.00	
11/03/22	Brockway	Canal	£10.00	
14/03/22	Bannister	Canal	£5.00	
16/03/22	Brown	Canal	£5.00	
17/03/22	Bunker	First Aid	£30.00	
21/03/22	Brockway	First Aid	£30.00	
01/04/22	Cullen	Canal	£10.00	
08/04/22	Thompson	Canal	£5.00	
05/05/22	Woburn Village Hall	Midsum		£130.00
12/05/22	Howatt	Canal	£10.00	
12/05/22	Busch	Canal	£5.00	
19/05/22	Hall re First Aid	First Aid Course		£120.00
24/05/22	Feal S	First Aid	£30.00	
25/05/22	Francis C	Canal	£5.00	
25/05/22	Porter	Canal	£5.00	
01/06/22	Davies	First Aid	£30.00	
01/06/22	Terry B	First Aid	£30.00	
01/06/22	Leadbetter A	First Aid	£30.00	
06/06/22	Lancaster M	First Aid	£30.00	
13/06/22	Moody A	First Aid	£30.00	
20/06/22	Sheffiel;d	First Aid	£30.00	
06/07/22	Knight M	First Aid	£30.00	
06/07/22	Knight M	Canal	£5.00	
08/07/22	Gill exps	Midsum		£12.35
22/07/22	Bills Coaches	Canals		£236.00
25/07/22	Hamson	Canal	£5.00	
27/07/22	Woburn refund	Midsum Meanders	£150.00	
01/08/22	Waldron	Canal	£10.00	
17/08/22	Knight M	Mids Mean Exp		£105.32
17/08/22	Knight M	100 Exp		£15.38
09/09/22	Missing G	First Aid	£30.00	
09/09/22	Bramley C	First Aid	£30.00	
12/09/22	Corrin N	First Aid	£30.00	

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 welcome by the committee.

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

BEDS BUCKS AND NORTHANTS GROUP LDWA
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
1ST OCTOBER 2021 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022

INCOME	2022	2021
MERCHANDISE	£43.25	£79.20
MISCELLANEOUS	£640.00	
PICK N MIX	£1014.60	£164.97
HH22	£2011.18	
SS22	£515.00	
SS21	£1563.46	£405.00
KANTER 21		£250.84
TOTAL	£5787.49	£900.02

EXPENDITURE	2022	2021
PRINT & POST	£26.98	
MERCHANDISE	0	£86.00
EQUIPMENT	£163.54	
DONATIONS	£1085.00	£642.00
AGM	£381.00	
MISCELLANEOUS	£996.93	£410.22
CHRISTMAS WALK	£17.96	
SS21	£1569.57	
HH22	£1261.16	
KANTER 21	0	£373.68
KANTER 23	£77.50	
TOTAL	£6394.57	£1511.90

SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)FOR YEAR **(£607.08)**

The deficit reported reflects that we have made some larger charitable donations.

ITEM 3(B) OTHER REPORTS

(i) Membership *Alan Leadbetter*

Membership at the end of September 2022: Total Membership 947, made up of 510 Primary members, 437 Associate members. I supply Norman Corrin (normally at the beginning of each month) with details of any new BBN Primary members so he can welcome them to the group.

(ii) Challenge Walk Co-ordinator *Mike Hyland*

The events below are as from now; the past events during the year will have their own reports.

Chiltern Kanter :- Flyer is on website (BBN and LDWA). The event is on SiEntries

ready to go live from 1st December 2022.

Pick And Mix :- Plans are in motion, with a new venue and new routes, the flyer is done and on website (BBN and LDWA) and the event should be in the next Strider in December and is on SiEntries in Demo mode being checked over, ready to go live from 1st March 2023.

(iii) Social Walks *Sara Waldron*

We have had a well-supported programme of walks this year with generally greater numbers attending Thursday walks than Weekend ones. There has been good support for the Easy Ambles.

Leaders have been coming forward but usually at shorter notice than in the past. Hence the decision to point people in the direction of the website rather than Strider as we can't look 4-6 months ahead at the moment.

There have been more volunteers to lead Thursday than Weekend walks

Our leaders are listed below. We thank them all for their efforts in delivering outstanding walks over the last year.

Gill Bunker	Bob Safford	Steve Clark
Judy Nickerson	Dee Brockway	Dave Yorston
Santa	Christine Bramley	Phil Hastings
Terry Brown	Ian Watson	Clive Haynes**
David Sedgley	Diane Baldwin	Terry Brown
Nigel Schofield	Chris Burns**	Graham Jones
Graham Missing	Adrian Moody	Graham Busch
Diane Sutton	Sara Waldron	Roger Skerman
Francoise Bannister**	Frank Jackson**	Roy Carter
Therese Jarmin	Sarah Feal	

** = new leader

ITEM 5. CHALLENGE EVENTS

(i) Shillington Shuffle 21st November 2021 *Merrian Lancaster*

The event was very successful, the weather was exceptional, 197 expected, 4 non-starters, no retirements, we had a small surplus. Finishing times and photos on BBN website.

A donation of £106 was made to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance following the event. This comprised "tea money" plus a contribution from entry fees.

(ii) Hannington Hike 6th March 2022 *Alan Leadbetter*

The same routes as the last Hannington Hike (2020) were used. It was decided to open the entries to LDWA members only for the first month. 249 people entered with 215 starting their chosen routes, with only 3 people retiring. I would like to thank all the marshals without whom these events would not be able to take place:

Thank you to Gill and Mary for managing the checkpoints. Mary made some lovely flapjacks and rocky road which went down well at the Hannington checkpoint, also the bread pudding at the Broughton checkpoint went down well (thank you to Jane Bayes for making it).

The next Hannington Hike will take place in March 2024. There will only be two routes, 15.5 and 26.5 miles. The 26.5 mile route will take a short trip around part of Pitsford Reservoir.

Accounts

INCOME		EXPENSES	
SiEntries	252.00	Halls	471.00
SiEntries	414.00	Badges	266.34
SiEntries	519.00	Certificates	66.00

SiEntries	171.00	Food	322.81
SiEntries	655.18	Van+ Fuel	135.01
	2,011.18		1261.16

As there were 61 non-members on the event £244 was donated to the LDWA for website development.

(iii) Pick & Mix 29th May 2022 Lynn & Dave Yorston

The weather was really lovely which allowed registration to be outside for most of the day. The team beat a hasty retreat when a shower bubbled up from nowhere during the late afternoon. A few walkers commented that they had encountered a good shower around the same time. We set up the refreshments so that only helpers would be indoors. The walkers came in to gather what they needed and then went back out onto the patio. This limited the use of plastic floor covering too. The routes had some major changes to accommodate HS2 works. We had a couple of under 18s on the event and the oldest walker was reported to be in his 90s. All credit to them for completing their chosen routes. Well done to 2 walkers who both covered the furthest distance of 31 miles in 4 loops. Everyone finished well within the 10 hour limit and we were ready, cleared up and gone by our 19.00 deadline. In total 109 walkers covered a total of 1934 miles in 227 loops

FUTURE EVENT UPDATE

(i) Chiltern Kanter 5th March 2023 Roy Carter

The Chiltern Kanter will become live and open to book in SiEntries on 1st December 2022. The headquarters for the Kanter remains Pitstone Memorial Hall. Checkpoints have been booked at Aldbury village hall and Wigginton village hall. A 13 mile circular route to Aldbury CP is established and an 18 mile circular route to include Wigginton CP has been worked out. An extended 26 mile route out from Wigginton is still in development. The route grid references and questions for the Kanter will be available after Christmas when a call for helpers at checkpoints will be sent out. The badges and certificates are already prepared. Parking for 50 or so cars is available around the Pitstone Hall and I've an agreement with the Museum opposite to extend parking onto their land.

There is still a lot to do with arrangements before the event.

The Chiltern Kanter Marshals' walk will be on Sunday 12th February.

(ii) Pick & Mix 4th June 2023 Lynn & Dave Yorston

The 2023 event will be held on June 4th at a new location in Wendover and all plans are well in hand. We already have the basis for all the new routes. There is even wheelchair & buggy friendly interest route to encourage families to join us.

ITEM 6.GROUP ACTIVITIES

(i) Future LDWA Hundred Checkpoints Mary Knight

- (a) **2022 Trans-Pennine 100** – BBN looked after checkpoint 2 on this years 100 mile challenge event. Although it was a very busy checkpoint all BBN members, friends and family that came and helped did a truly amazing job. Once again thank you so much to everyone who helped.
- (b) **2023 – Elephant Bear and Bull 100** based in Coventry, Warwickshire and Birmingham. The event will be hosted by a committee made up from a number of local groups. BBN have accepted the request to look after checkpoint 3, Alvechurch, 17.7 miles in.
- (c) **2024 – The Speyside 100**, hosted by North of Scotland Group and based in Inverness/Moray area. BBN have requested a checkpoint at around the 20 mile point.
- (d) **2025 – East Point 100**, hosted by Norfolk and Suffolk. Again BBN have requested a checkpoint at around the 20 mile point.
- (e) **2026 – Hunnypot 100**, hosted by Kent

(ii) Isle of Man Trip August 2022 Roy Carter

There was great enthusiasm from the organiser and BBN members who booked on the holiday –the Isle of Man appears so high on everyone's list of places to visit. The holiday did not disappoint and it was a fabulous walking week for all of us.

The Arrandale apartments in Douglas seemed to meet our accommodation needs, in that we could stay together in one place, have breakfast together, announce the walk and share thoughts on where to eat in the evening. Those coming had to book their rooms and travel arrangements to the island individually, along with bus passes for the 5 days they were there. Late arrivals on the Liverpool ferry got a welcome lift to the hotel but missed the evening meal and Ian was lost for 2 hours finding the hotel.

Day 1 began with breakfast as it should. The walk devised was a circular around Douglas starting from the hotel, out to Onchan Head & Port Groudle before heading inland through deep glens to Hillberry Corner on the TT circuit. Taking small roads toward Strang, the walk veered down to Quarter Bridge to reach the river Dhoo and river Glass where they merge to form the name of Douglas. Walking south past the Nunnery, the walk entered the old town at the ferry port and finished at the Bee Gees statue – a tribute to the brothers who were born on the island.

Day 2 began with an earlier breakfast, to catch the bus to Port Erin to walk the 'Way of the Gull' coast path. Heading north to the tower at Bradda head and onto Bradda hill it became clear the walk was not going to plan. A strong headwind and overgrown vegetation made for slow progress and we hadn't reached near halfway, The Stacks, before deciding to return back inland to Port Erin. The weather brightened to make a splendid walk through Sorby and the golf course to the railway station for a cuppa.

Day 3 began early to catch the bus to Laxey, where some took the tram to the top of Snaefell, while the rest, walked past the Laxey Wheel up to the mine before crossing a bog to Bungalow station and up to Snaefell. We all met there at the cafe and took pictures at the top. Someone spotted another hill in the distance and it became the next destination – North Barrule. A dominant fell to look across the north coast of the IOM and down into Ramsey. The walk ended quickly by flagging a bus at Corran.

Day 4 began with an early breakfast to catch the bus again to Port Erin. This time walking south to the Sound that separates the Isle of Man from the Calf of Man. From the cafe there, along to the Chasms – a collection of fissures cut deep into the cliffs and into Port St Mary for lunch. Following the Raad ny Foillan coastal path into the old Manx capital of Castletown, we caught the bus back to Douglas and crossed the fairy bridge, not forgetting to say "hello" to the little people as the bus drove over.

Day 5 began as it had all week by catching a bus to Peel on the west coast. It was the endpoint of the walk on day 2, the 'Way of the Gull' which was abandoned. This time walking south to Niarbyl cafe passing Corrans Tower to catch the afternoon bus back to Peel. The day continued with a walk back to Douglas along the disused track called the Steam Heritage Trail until Crosby where the bus was caught. The holiday was celebrated at the 1886 Bar & Grill where the food was loved on a previous visit.

Can I thank everyone on the BBN holiday for making it so enjoyable to lead.

6(c) Celebrating BBN's 40th Anniversary in 2023

Proposed BBN 40th Anniversary events program 2023 As at 16 November 2022

Event	Date/s	Further Details
Milton Keynes Boundary Walk	Saturdays – 18 March, 1 April, 13 May	63 miles, in 3 linear day walk sections approx. 21/.5 miles/day in 3 consecutive months. Different leader each section. Minibus transport.
Northampton Round	Thursdays from June onwards	51 miles, in 7 loop day walk sections. Leaders needed.
Greensand Ridge Walk	Saturday 10 June	40 miles in a day. Walk east to west, Park at Leighton Buzzard for coach to Gamlingay, start walking time tbc,

		meal at Parkside Hall Ampthill, 21.6 miles. Extra drink stops according to weather.
A 'Ruby 'Do' – walks and celebratory afternoon tea	Saturday 22 July	Walks of varying length starting at different times all to end at Woburn Village Hall by 2.30pm for afternoon tea and socialising
Cruise and Walk	Sunday 3 September	A chartered narrowboat cruise on the R Ouse from Priory Marina Bedford. Details still being worked on but food / refreshments will be available on board followed by a possible choice of walks, could include a history of the R Great Ouse walk in and around Bedford.
Walk and Ruby Murray (Curry)	tba	A walk followed by a curry, probably in Milton Keynes area, either Sunday banquet or Thursday late afternoon/early evening.
Group weekend away / holiday	tba	Several thoughts but nothing sorted yet
An event to include a quiz	tba probably later in the year	Could be a stand-alone quiz evening, or a walk and quiz. Probably would involve some food and drinks

ITEM 7: DONATIONS/PROJECTS

(a) STATUS ON THE GREENSAND RIDGE BENCH PROJECT *Roy Carter*

The project to refresh six possibly more, of the BBN benches on the 'Greensand Ridge Walk' has been a plan since 2019 and was severely impacted by the Covid pandemic. The project is in collaboration with 'Greensand Country Landscape Partnership' and BBN have contributed £1k toward the total costs, estimated to be £4k. The six original benches have been extended to include two or more along the GRW route, suggested by the BBN team.

The plaque on the benches read: ***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 and Northants Group of the Long Distance Walkers Association***

We are now in the installation phase and some of the six original benches have been replaced. Some old benches will be salvaged and made available for BBN members to keep.

Here is the installation status on the six original benches:

- Heath Wood – installed
- Rushmere – not yet installed, will be during October
- Kings Wood – installed
- Clophill Church – considered to be in OK condition – not to be replaced yet
- Home Wood – confusion over land ownership – clarified and landowner is sponsoring
- Everton – installed

Here is the status for 3 more benches at additional locations on the GRW:

- Haynes – Greensand Country are in contact with Haynes P3 group
- Ampthill Park – Greensand Country in discussion with Ampthill Town Council
- Sandy – Greensand Country are in contact with Sandy Town Council

