**Steppingley Step 2023**

The 2023 Steppingley Step was very much a team effort. As you can see from the report below many take responsibility for a role and do everything required.

**Entries**Once again SiEntries was used to manage the entry process with Mike H in control. We had a limit of 250 as that has proven to be a manageable total. Entries opened on 1st Sept for LDWA members only. Non-members could enter from 2nd Oct and we were full by 12th Oct at which time a waiting list was started. By the closing date of 17th Nov there had been 30 entrants accepted off the waiting list with just 6 not offered places. 22 on the waiting list were offered places but didn’t take up the offer.

**Route**The routes were going to be the same as 2019 but on a recce on the 15th October I discovered that a footpath used on the long route was closed for 6 months for bridge repairs. I contacted Central Beds Council to see whether the footpath would be closed on the day of the event but the person responsible never replied to my emails. This meant I had to find an alternative route still using the Ampthill checkpoint and still being about the same distance. I eventually came up with an alternative using a lot of the new Katherine’s Walk just in time for the Marshals’ walk. Roy spotted I still don’t know my left from right but that was the only issue. There have been no negative comments about the change.

**Checkpoints**We used the same checkpoints as 2019. Westoning Village Hall with Terry B in charge assisted by Mile H, Frank J, Sara W, Peter & Mooi S, Val T, Anne A & Brenda M. Ampthill Scout Hut with Mary K in charge assisted by Dennis K, Alan L, Gordon S, Francoise B & Chris B. Flitton Church Hall with Gill B in charge with Jackie B, Beryl & Mike B, Val H & Norman C. The checkpoint leaders did their own food menus and ordering.

One runner arrived at CP1 with a head wound which was patched up by Sara W and despite being advised to go straight to A&E continued to finish before then going to A&E. The required incident report was completed by Terry B.

**HQ**By the time I arrived the hall had already been opened and the tables and chairs put out. Thanks Alan L, Roy C.
The parking team were the same as 2022 (Alan L, Brian L, Phil V, Mike H & Roy C) and despite the late opening of Arnold Academy it seem to go as smoothly as ever.

It was stated in the entry details that the hall/registration would open at 07.30. Despite this we had a large number already in the entrance area well before and so we opened at 07.20. Karen E, Sandra H & Liz S dispensed tea/coffee & biscuits. At 08.00 the majority were sent on their way. The last entrants left the hall shortly after 09.00.

Karen E had bought all the requirements for the vegetable stew and along with Sandra did all the prep and serving. Phil V with his new marigolds did most of the washing up ably assisted by Roy C. I’d bought everything else and Lynn Y and I kept the pudding table stocked and left the entrants to help themselves. Alison R, having done the medium route, cleared & cleaned tables. Others returned after checkpoint duties to assist in various ways.

The last walkers arrive around 18.00 to be shortly followed by the sweep team of Alan L. A great team effort meant everything was clean and tidy well before official closing so the last marshals left at around 6.45.

**Tracking/Results**The HQ admin team was Graham Missing, Dave Yorston and Merrian Lancaster with help from Chris Burns who booked people in before she went to CP2, Lynn Yorston, who took the start times on the door and Roy Carter, who wrote names on certificates.
For analysis of results see separate file.

**Finance**

Income 2472

Expenditure

 Food 683
Halls 553
Sundries 60

Donations

 Air Ambulance 100
LDWA 100

Surplus 970