

**LDWA : BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP : ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT 2.30 PM  
AT GREAT DODDINGTON MEMORIAL HALL, 42B HIGH ST,  
GREAT DODDINGTON, WELLINGBOROUGH NN29 7TQ**

## **REPORTS**

### **ITEM 3. REPORTS**

#### **(a) Officers' Reports**

##### **(ii) Secretary Gill Bunker**

Looking back over the past year, it was brilliant to be part of the team organising the celebration of BBN's 40th anniversary and it was great to see so many members enjoying the various events throughout the year.

It has been another busy but satisfying 12 months to report on

- Tuesday News circulated each week, keeping members updated throughout the year
- Emails from the NEC: Circulated and responded to as necessary
- We've continued to use Zoom for this year's committee meetings
- BBN website kept updated with photos from group walks and challenge events, plus event information, route descriptions, gpx files and finishing times etc
- Photos with words (from Dee) about BBN's 40th anniversary celebrations (the Ruby Doo and River Cruise) submitted for inclusion in December Strider. I understand BBN will be in the *Focus on ....* Section
- Total Membership as at 30th September 2023 was 977 (Primary 522 and Associate 455)
- New members' contact information sent to Dee each week. Dee then makes a welcome phone call/sends a welcome email to the new members

#### **(b) Other Reports**

##### **(i) Challenge Walk Co-ordinator Mike Hyland**

**Hannington Hike** :- Flyer is done and on websites (BBN and LDWA), also in Strider. Is set up on SiEntries ready to go live on 1st December 2023

**Pick And Mix** :- Flyer is done and on websites (BBN and LDWA), will go into December Strider. Also is set up on SiEntries ready to go live on 1st April 2024

##### **(ii) Social Walks Sara Waldron**

Our walks programme has continued to be well supported this year. There have been several walks in celebration of our 40th anniversary including the Milton Keynes Boundary, Tring Boundary and Northampton Round.

Many thanks to all the leaders who have offered a walk for the programme. Some new leaders have emerged – see the list below. Some leaders have taken us on more than one walk for which we are very grateful as we know how much time it takes to plan and do the recce for each walk.

Our special thanks go to Dave Findel-Hawkins who led each of the 7 legs of the Northampton Round.

We have continued to post our walks on the website and only put Challenge events into Strider. This fits with our leaders' wishes to be able to offer walks at shorter notice and not commit themselves many months in advance.

There have continued to be problems with uploading walks to the website. Gill and I have

had talks with NEC members and although there is a plan to create a new, better website, that will be at least 2 years away. So please bear with us when something mysteriously won't transfer to our BBN site or when the words you sent me have been altered to fit the LDWA site.

Earlier in the year I took part in a piece of work with Terry Brown to bring our First Aid Kits up to date and make sure that we have 4 full kits which contain in-date items for each checkpoint on our Challenge events. This should make dealing with situations easier for the marshals at our checkpoints

#### **Walk Leaders:**

Clive Haynes	Adrian Moody	Chris Bent
Dave Findel-Hawkins	Terry Brown	Alan Leadbetter
Sara Waldron	Peter Hamson	Jim Blakelock**
Steve Clark	Graham Missing	Trevor Jones**
Gill Bunker	Ian Watson (org. Phil Hastings)	Dianne Sutton
Donald the Reindeer**	Nick Emery**	Mary Knight
Dee Brockway	Chris Burns	Roy Carter
John Manning**	Bola Baruwa (London Group)**	

\*\* = New Leader

#### **ITEM 5. CHALLENGE EVENTS**

- (i) Sundon Saunter 2022 (20th November 2022) Merrian Lancaster p.4/5
- (ii) Chiltern Kanter 2023 (5th March 2023) Roy Carter p.5/6
- (iii) Pick & Mix 2023 (2nd June 2023) Lynn & Dave Yorston p.6/8

#### **Future Event Update**

- (i) **Steppingley Step 2023 (19th November 2023) Dave Findel-Hawkins**

The event is now full with a large waiting list. All venues have been booked. CP leads are organising their own menus. Karen is organising the main meal at HQ. We have a good turnout of volunteers - these are mainly the usual ones. All routes, including change to long route necessitated by a closed footpath, have been checked. Route descriptions and gpx files published.

- (ii) **Hannington Hike 2024 (3rd March 2024) Alan Leadbetter**

All halls are booked and paid for. Event will go live on SiEntries for LDWA members on 1st December 2023 and then to all on 1st January 2024.

Route descriptions for both the 15.5 mile and 26.6 mile have been written along with the GPX files, which are in sections. I would like someone to route check the long route for me before the marshals' walk if possible.

The marshals' walk will be on 11th February. I will be supporting the marshals' walk along with Karen, Phil and Norman. There will be snacks and drinks available. I am looking for 3 checkpoint managers and about 20 marshals to help on the day. If you would like to help out contact me at [acleadbetter64@gmail.com](mailto:acleadbetter64@gmail.com) or text/ring on 07775887493.

The following are eligible for the BBN triple if they complete the 2024 Hannington Hike:

Verity Allsopp, Mandy Attree, Mark Beesley, Graham Busch, John Davies, Gerald Davies, Nicolas Emery, Mark Garratt, Catharine Gregory, Steven Jenkins, Paul Keech, Eddie Pember, Lucy Stern,

Mia Timms, Paul Timms, Carrie Tyas, Georgina Watt.

(iii) **Pick & Mix 2024 (2nd June 2024) Lynn & Dave Yorston**

The same venue has been booked for 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024 when we shall hold the next Pick & Mix. We will be asking for volunteers for that event early in the new year. Hope to see you all then.

(iv) **Shillington Shuffle 2024 (17th November 2024) Dave Findel-Hawkins**

Barton Village Hall now has a regular booking on Sunday mornings. So, if the event is to take place in 2024, either a new venue needs to be found or the event moved to a Saturday.

We also need to find another lead marshal. Since Dave & Lynn indicated they wish to withdraw from a front line role it has been assumed that the person who's responsible for the route will take on these duties. I never volunteered for this and I don't think Dave Sedgley did either.

## **6. Group Activities**

(ii) **BBN Weekends Roy Carter**

(a) **Criccieth Trip August 2023** p.8/9

(b) **Ilfracombe Trip 2024**

Next year's BBN holiday is to Ilfracombe: Friday 30th August - Monday 2nd September using the Imperial Hotel for accommodation, booking through Alfa Travel Self-Drive holidays.

Please contact Roy Carter to get yourself booked into the hotel.

## **10. 2024 AGM Date/Venue Alan Leadbetter**

Next year's AGM will be held on Sunday 24th November (TBC) at Lavendon Village Hall.

The meal to be held at either The Green Man or The Horseshoe to be announced at a later date.

## ITEM 5. Challenge Events

### 5(i) Sundon Saunter 2022 (20th November 2022) Merrian Lancaster

**Entries. 13 non-LDWA. More than 100 first-timers.**

	Expected	non-starters	n/s %	starters	retired	completed
overall	247	9	3.64	238	2	236
13 mile	46	1	2.17	45	0	45
18 mile	42	2	4.76	40	0	40
27 mile	159	6	3.77	153	2	151

18 people achieved their first triple certificate and badge, 9 their second and 5 their third.

**WhatsApp** Used for the first time to communicate between marshals, worked really well. Used to send the non-starter and route change sheet to checkpoints..

#### **A few things to sort out for next time.**

Although we make it clear that we don't allow substitutions, a couple of people did that.

Although we make it clear that people must know where the checkpoints are, two people missed cp1 by only following a gps. Two others missed cp1 but they went wrong.

Although we make it clear that people must not retire without letting us know, someone did that.

**Lost property.** Photos on BBN website and Facebook. One item posted. Two items returned via Sara.

#### **Finances: Dave Yorston**

Total income from entries after SiEntries charges £2446.41

Total provisions costs £598.29

Total hall and parking cost 397.00

Total other costs £43.24

Therefore total expenditure £1038.53

The excess from the event £1478.88

We then sent £130.00 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance (£30.00 from sale at the AGM, £71.00 from tea money and £29.00 from walk excess). We also sent £100.00 to the LDWA.

Therefore the total excess that went into our account was £1278.88.

#### **Routes: David Sedgley**

The closure of the old route up the side of Smithcombe Hill and opening of a longer one, added half a mile and a steep hill to the early part of the route.

My discovery of the medieval village hall in Chalton meant a diversion from the route previously used via Fancott was possible. This shortened the route through Sundon Quarry and meant there was less to mark on the morning. Previously I'd always

marked it the day before – then just checked it on the day. It also meant we could use CP1 on the short route rather than CP3 as in the past.

My preferred route between Wingfield & Tebworth had a line of very dodgy stiles, which the newly appointed Rights of Way officer was able to change to kissing gates. This shortened this part of the route by about 400 metres & also made it more obvious. Lyndsay, the new ROW officer, had got the Ripple group to clear through all the overgrown hedge gaps previously.

### **Many thanks to all our marshals.**

**Registration** – Dave Findel-Hawkins, Andrew Boulden, Graham Missing, Jim Morrison and Merrian Lancaster

**Car parking** – Brian Leyton, Phil Vidler, Mike Hyland. Alan Leadbetter and Roy Carter

**Kitchen** – Sandra Hyland, Karen Earwicker, Dave Yorston, Liz Sheffield and Phil Vidler

**HQ** – Gordon Shaughnessy, John Davies. Roy Carter, Terry Brown, Mike Hyland and Norman Corrin

**Sweep from CP2** - Alan Leadbetter

### **CP1 Chalton on all routes**

Marshals: Gill Bunker, Jackie Burnett, Beryl Bowley, Mike Bowley. Rachel Martin, Sarah Feal

### **CP2 Milton Bryan on Long route only**

Marshals: Mary Knight, Dennis Knight, Alan Leadbetter, Gordon Shaughnessy, Andrew Boulden

### **CP3 Harlington Scout Hut on Medium and Long routes**

Marshals: Terry Brown, Sara Waldron, Val Thompson, Mooi and Peter Simon, Mike Hyland and John Davies.

### **5.(ii) Chiltern Kanter 2023 (5th March 2023) Roy Carter**

The 22nd Chiltern Kanter was held on Sunday 5th March for the 205 participants who had arrived at Pitstone Memorial Hall at sunrise on a cool morning. There were 231 expected based on bookings from SiEntries. This represents an 89% turn-out on the day and all finished with no retirements. The Short route had 59 complete 13 miles; Medium route had 51 complete 18 miles and Long route had 95 complete 26 miles. Also, 26 participants had the honour of receiving the CK-HH-PM Triple Challenge badge. The weather throughout the day remained cool, dry and reasonably sunny, which made for ideal conditions for the Kanter.

There were 24 Marshal's on hand to help with the event. A problem was immediately spotted in the kitchen before participants arrived at Pitstone. The hot water Urn had a message reading "Out of Order. Reported 23/02/23". This meant we could only use slow boil kettles to prepare tea and coffee for participants. Another problem occurred simultaneously when we found there wasn't enough bowls for both stew and dessert. Both problems resolved by DFH who returned to MK to fetch the BBN urn and bowls

from the Equipment cupboard. More problems occurred late morning at Aldbury CP, when the Disabled toilet flooded which also affected the Ladies toilet. Marshals were on hand to mop and clear the spillage. From that point, participants at Aldbury could only use the Gents toilet.

Other issues during the day were: The Defibrillator at Pitstone Hall kept buzzing and flashing (unusable?) and space to store prepared food at Wigginton was very limited.

Response from the Aldbury Memorial Hall manager:

*"They found a blockage in the sewer pipe near some of the neighbouring cottages. It's my understanding that this issue was unique and is unlikely to happen again"*

Response from the Pitstone Memorial Hallmaster:

*"I believe both issues, the Urn and the Defibrillator, are being sorted swiftly, as we also want to keep our popular hall up to spec for the community. Thank you for your concern"*

Marshal Information:

Can I thank Checkpoint managers Mary Knight at Aldbury & Gill Bunker at Wigginton for offering their selection of food and drink which was praised by many participants. A thank you to Karen Earwicker at Pitstone for preparing a final course of vegetable stew and fruit dessert which participants really enjoyed. A thank you also to Merrian & Dave for the process of registration and certificates at Pitstone. And finally a very big thank to all our other Marshals for attending to participant requirements:

*Norman Corrin, Mike Hyland, Alan Leadbetter, Brian Chandler, John Davies, Philip Vidler, Dennis Knight, Gordon Shaughnessy, Chris Burns, Therese Jamin, Jackie Burnett, Beryl & Mike Bowley, Sarah Feal, Terry Brown, Dave & Lynn Yorston and Alison Roberts*

Chiltern Kanter Finances:

Total Income: £1926.18

Total Expenditure: £1255.06

Total Income			Total Expenditure		£1,255.06
SI Entries Receipt – December	£283.50	£283.50			
SI Entries Receipt – January	£393.00	£676.50	Source of expenditure		
SI Entries Receipt – February	£483.75	£1,160.25	BBN	£680.00	
SI Entries Receipt – March	£665.93	£1,826.18	Mary Knight	£131.04	
	£0.00	£1,826.18	Gill Bunker	£193.47	
Pitstone Hall – Damages Deposit – Refund	£50.00	£1,876.18	Roy Carter	£250.55	
Wigginton Hall – Damages Deposit – Refund	£50.00	£1,926.18	Total	£1,255.06	
			Balance of Income vs Expenditure	£671.12	

Surplus: £671.12

### **(iii) Pick & Mix 2023 (2nd June 2023) Lynn & Dave Yorston**

The weather was very hot and dry with brilliant sunshine. We were in the new location of Wendover Memorial Hall with all new walking routes too. The site was very user friendly with lots of space to park in school grounds next door. We had a large kitchen and plenty of room in the main hall to mill about.

We offered a 10 mile, two 8 mile and a 6 mile route that all took different paths leaving the town. We also combined the way out on one route with the return from another, giving us an extra 4.5 mile option. On top of that, for the first time, we offered a wheelchair and buggy friendly 2 mile interest walk around the town. All these routes were well attended and greatly appreciated with the variety of paths, canal towpath, hills and wooded terrain.

We had 6 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 the walker who covered the furthest distance of 43 miles in 7 loops. Big congratulations to all.

Everyone finished well within the 10 hour limit and we were ready, cleared up and gone by our 19.00 deadline.

Many thanks to all who helped us in advance and on the day.

Merrian Lancaster, Dave Findel-Hawkins, Gordon Shaughnessy, Christine Burns, Karen Earwicker, Phil Vidler, Alan Leadbetter, Terry Brown, Alison Roberts and Glyn Dimmock

Three of these happy helpers also completed a good walk too !!

In total 145 walkers covered a total of 2,662 miles in 363 loops

We look forward to seeing you all next year at the same venue on Sunday 2nd June 2024.

### **Statistics**

Walkers booked in 161

Non-starters 16

Total out walking 145

### **Loops walked**

25 completed 1 loop

66 completed 2 loop

25 completed 3 loops

17 completed 4 loops

10 completed 5 loops

1 completed 6 loops

1 completed 7 loops

### **Distances walked**

1 walked 4.5 miles

5 walked 6 miles

### **Number times loops were walked**

95 completions of 10 mile RED loop

67 completions of 8 mile GREEN loop

60 completions of 8 mile BLUE loop

74 completions of 6 mile YELLOW loop

47 completions of 4.5 mile ORANGE loop

20 completions of 2 mile Interest walk

2 walked 20.5 miles

8 walked 24 miles

7 walked 8 miles	16 walked 26 miles
16 walked 10 miles	5 walked 26.5 miles
6 walked 10.5 miles	3 walked 28 miles
1 walked 12.5 miles	5 walked 28.5 miles
15 walked 14 miles	5 walked 30.5 miles
14 walked 14.5 miles	1 walked 32 miles
12 walked 16 miles	4 walked 36.5 miles
14 walked 18 miles	1 walked 38.5 miles
1 walked 18.5 miles	1 walked 43 miles
2 walked 20 miles	

### **Marshals' Event**

We held an 'anytime' marshals walk this year to allow as many as possible to take part. Also, three marshals completed loops on the day and are not included in the main results.

If anyone would like an event badge, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to

Dave Yorston at 3, Lodge Lane, Prestwood. HP16 0SS

If you forgot to pick up your certificate and would like to claim it, please send an A5 stamped self-addressed envelope to Dave at the same address

Again, many thanks to all who helped and to all the walkers.

Congratulations to you all. You made it a day to remember.

Dave & Lynn Yorston and Mike & Sandra Hyland

### **Item 6(ii) Group Activities: BBN Holiday to Criccieth, Wales**

We used the George IV hotel in Criccieth for our BBN holiday to the Llyn Peninsula this year. Arranged through Alfa Travel we booked 22 LDWA members into the hotel with the luxury of them all being together for breakfast and dinner, making the walks easier to manage. The holiday became more exciting because very little went to plan apart from the accommodation and I had to think quickly, to make it look planned.

An inkling of what was to happen started in the Criccieth Council car park on Friday, with Sarah handing me her parking permit from the hotel, a temporary measure while I got mine. When I got it, Ian was passing the hotel looking to park, so I handed him my permit, keeping Sarah's. Ian then handed his permit to Rob in a similar situation. The upshot of this swapping around meant Sarah had to find somewhere in town to park her car for free and it wasn't resolved until Monday when we left.

The Friday walk didn't go to plan either; descended a slope to go under the railway we were faced with a swamp – marked on map in extensive blue grass and river-lets – why choose that way? It took some time and distance to avoid, which meant my plan to visit the resting place of Lloyd George at Llanystumdwy couldn't be reached because we had to return to the hotel for the evening meal at 7:00pm.



Saturday began together for an early breakfast at 7:30am and a drive to Nefyn on the north coast of the Llyn Peninsula. We walked to a remote pub at Porth Dinllaen but too early to rest there (Anne & Rachel stopped since they had a different walk). We continued down past a golf course for a morning break at the "Pipe Line", which was a better place than it sounds. The sun was shining as we walked the wonderful coastline to Tudweiliog to catch an afternoon bus back to Nefyn. The shop there did well selling us ice creams, cakes, drinks while we waited for a bus in warm sunshine.

The afternoon walk from Nefyn headed north along the Wales Coast Path. At Ciliau-isaf, we had to decide whether to continue to catch a bus in the village of Llithfaen as planned or return on foot. We decided the latter because we knew we could beat the bus back to Nefyn and get to Criccieth in time for tea at the hotel by 7:00pm. I plotted a new route back using the map which was enjoyable as well as exhausting.

The Sunday walk started in Aberdaron at the bottom of the Llyn Peninsula about an hour's drive. The weather had changed, cloudy, cooler, light drizzle but fine for us. The plan was to follow the Wales Coast Path to Porth Ferin and back across country to Aberdaron. Another lovely part of the coastline with views to islands in Aberdaron Bay and across to the legendary island of Bardsey. Much of the day's walk remained at clifftop level, with the occasional drop to sea-level. The late morning stop was at St Mary's Well at the end of the North Wales Pilgrims Way. A visitor asked me if St Cuthbert was buried on Bardsey Island and I said "only Merlin was buried there?"

We ended the walk at Whistling Sands falling short of plan because the Cafe there was so inviting; the tea and coffee were welcome; the blueberry scones were large and scrumptious; and the rain to the west was heading toward us. A great end to the day despite a three mile walk back on minor roads to Aberdaron, singing in the rain.

The Monday walk started at Portmeirion car park where we formed into two groups; one going inside to enjoy the Prisoner experience, the other going by bus to Blaenau Ffestiniog to follow the railway back down. That was the plan. However, being Bank Holiday Monday the bus timetable had changed and there wasn't a bus to Blaenau until after 11am and a train wasn't going up there until that time either. The new plan was to walk toward Blaenau until we reached a point to head back down by 4:00pm. This we did admirably despite negotiating a footpath closure and a nasty bit of road walking. We had occasional views on the walk; trains going past, a viaduct, a break at a reservoir, a study centre garden, and an old railway bed across a marsh.

I finished the walk without saying goodbye to everyone because Diane and myself sneaked into the Portmeirion Castell for a celebration drink. Sorry guys.

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