

## East Lancashire LDWA Group Annual General Meeting

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday 4th November 2025 at 8pm

**Venue:** Sea View Inn, 2 Preston Road, Whittle-le-Woods, Chorley, PR6 7HH on Tuesday 4th November 2025

**Present:**

|                |                 |                  |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Hilary Scott   | Pauline Melia   | Peter Billingham |
| Roger Jackson  | Dave Walsh      | Gordon Stone     |
| Jeanette Banks | Alma Walsh      | Tony Clarke      |
| Paul Banks     | Chris Greene    | Harry Jackson    |
| Steve Clark    | Edwina Hill     | Stephen Hindley  |
| Caz Tennant    | Barbara Shelton | Viv Lee          |
| Nick Halford   | Sue Boardman    |                  |

**Apologies:**

Ann Finnegan and Paul Raine

**Minutes of last AGM**

Edwina Hill and Alma Walsh confirm that the minutes of the last AGM are an accurate record of the meeting

**Chair's Report**

Chair's Annual Report November 2025

Welcome to the East Lancs :LDWA AGM. Nice to see you all and for those non committee members who have joined, you are very welcome. For those who have eaten, hope you enjoyed your food!

It is with great pleasure to reflect on another successful year of exploring the great outdoors in our own region - and further afield. And also, to celebrate everything else that we get up so, that makes our group such a success and a such great place to be.

This past year has once again been a testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of our members, in whatever role. From walking, to arranging holidays, to making soup and sweeping up, we all have a part to play and every single one of us deserves a pat on the back tonight.

**Walks**

Our core mission remains to provide a diverse, engaging, and safe programme of walks and this we have done again. So first of all, big thanks to Nick for all you've done to maintain a healthy walks programme and all the

walk leaders who give up their time for the benefit of others. We continue to have good attendance numbers too, which is satisfying to see. We have seen a few new faces too, which is great. As I've said before, we do rely on a small number of walk leaders, so if you are a regular walker and fancy giving leading a go, let us know and we'll support you.

#### Community

We've once again given something back to our community, with the help of the Martyn Greaves Fund. So thank you again to the NEC and no doubt we shall reflect on that later.

#### Social

We've also enjoyed several successful social gatherings, including holidays, the 100/2XS party (thank you Dave and Alma for hosting), the Christmas Cracker (including the meal at Rivington Tea Rooms) and other ad-hoc gatherings that are pivotal in maintaining the friendly, inclusive atmosphere that defines our group. So thanks once again to Viv and Hilary who have arranged holidays this year, and those who have contributed in any way to making those holidays so special.

#### Events

Well, what can I say about the Two Crosses! The whole 2XS weekend is a joy and from the demand that we've seen yet again this year, with places being filled at a record pace, we must be doing something right. On that note, thanks again to Caz, Roger and Viv for their organising and for each and every one of you that plays a part in the logistics. From negotiating with United Utilities to grilling bacon, every single volunteer plays a crucial role.

The Peel Tower opening was once again a success, raising funds for very worthwhile causes. Sorry I couldn't make it on the day.

#### 100

This year saw the last ever East Lancs breakfast stop on the 100. A magnificent milestone indeed and we signed off in style, with another sub standard venue testing our resolve and versatility. Yet again, we overcame all obstacles and made entrants very happy. So, a massive thanks to Viv for leading the team yet again and for every person who has supported Viv over the years. Best wishes to those taking over at the helm, you have a hard act to follow.

And for our members who successfully completed the 100 challenge.....have your toe nails dropped off yet? I ask because I didn't complete the challenge –retiring at the breakfast stop – but one of my nails took a bashing – and is still hanging on for dear life! Well done all! You are superstars!

#### Finances

It is safe to say that our finances are in very good hands. Every single pound and penny is tracked with diligence by Alma, so once again, thank you Alma and thanks to Julie for auditing the accounts for this AGM.

#### IT/Social Media

Our website is regularly maintained and social media posts frequently dispatched, informing members and enticing those who may be considering joining us. For the work involved, thanks to Hilary.

#### Secretary

Tonight I want to convey special thanks to Jeanette, who is stepping down from the Secretary's role. We appreciate everything that you've done Jeanette. We know that it is a challenging job at times but you've

undertaken every task with patience and diligence. But we're glad that you want to stay around on the committee! A round of applause for Jeanette please!

In conclusion / final acknowledgements

So in conclusion. I'd like to extend my sincere gratitude to our phenomenal committee members, whose tireless efforts behind the scenes make the group's activities possible. Their voluntary contributions of time and expertise are invaluable.

A special thank you also goes to all our dedicated walk leaders; without their commitment to planning, receiving and leading, we would not have such a rich and varied walks programme.

Most importantly, I want to thank you, the members. Your enthusiasm, camaraderie, and love for walking are the very heart of the East Lancashire Walking Group.

We look forward to more fun in 2026!

### **Secretary's Report**

I would just like to thank you all for the opportunity to act up in the role of Secretary for EL LDWA. I am grateful for the experience I have had over the last 3 years as Secretary.

I wish the new Secretary and all of you the best as we continue to work together for the members of EL LDWA.

Thank you, Jeanette

### **Treasurer's Report**

Alma Walsh read out the following report:

#### Current Account

Current Account Balance £716.38

The main outgoings from the current account were

Two Crosses 2025 expenses £2525.12

Two Crosses Party £241.14

Bury Council in respect of Redisher Woods £915.00 (funded by the Martyn Greaves grant)

Payments to volunteers on the Flower of Suffolk 100 £343.75 (funded from the NEC)

Christmas Cracker subsidy £280.00

Bolton MRT donation £270.00

Walk leader expenses £158.85

Ice tags £132.94

Club meeting expenses £92.80

Sundries £29.43

#### Savings Account

Savings Account Balance £19155.12

Savings income was generated from SI entries in respect of the Two Crosses 2025 challenge event £3854.94

NEC payment £500.00 in respect of the Flower of Suffolk 100 volunteer's expenses

NEC grant £12000.00 from the Martyn Greaves fund

Other payments received into this account are from the Flower of Suffolk 100 and the Ghyllhead 2025 accommodation

The only outgoings from this account are transfers to the current account

The Treasurer's Accounts have been audited by Julie Spencer

## **Officer's Annual Reports**

### ***Walk's Secretary Report***

Nick Halford reported the following:

This year we have had 34 midweek and 27 weekend walks, total 61, the same as last year, with 25 walk leaders or teams compared to 22.

The number of walkers per walk remained nearly the same too, with 13 plus midweek and 14 plus weekends.

Paul and Jeanette were congratulated for leading the most walks in the year, seven, including the excellent Journey to the Centre of the Kingdom series.

Roger was also awarded for leading the most walkers, with 35 on the Christmas Cracker.

The annual Dave Walsh Award for Disaster was this year given to a leader that managed at one point to lose 50% of his starters, and the details were explained to the AGM. Congratulations Peter Ault.

Lastly as walk sec, but on behalf of the whole club, a massive thank you to all the walk leaders for giving us such a great year.

### ***Event's Secretary Report***

Caz Tennant provided the following AGM report:

The 9th March 2025 saw another successful Two Crosses for East Lancs with 247 entrants and 9 dogs completing the event. A profit of £1380.76 went back into the group.

Entrant feedback was, as usual, all very positive and complimentary of our marshals.

The 2024 issue of rogue entrants appeared not to be a problem, following some strong discouragement. The only 2 that were suspected of being rogues, just forgot to register back at the finish.

The event route has benefitted from ongoing improvements, thanks to funding from the Martyn Greaves fund. Further work is in the pipeline, with projects being planned with Bury Council and United Utilities.

2026 - Planning in progress for Sunday the 8th March 2026, which will be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event, so extra celebrations are afoot.

Entry fees have been increased to cover increased costs. They are now £15 for LDWA members and £20 for non-members.

Entries are currently set to a lower maximum of 250, normally 300. This is to allow for potential car parking limits at the pub. Final numbers for the pub will be confirmed closer to the time. We can then invite from the waiting list, if there is capacity, rather than be over full and have parking issues. We still have to adhere to the actual entrant limit of 250 to comply with Natural England's agreement with United Utilities.

Entries opened on SI entries on 5<sup>th</sup> September and, as of 30<sup>th</sup> October, we are FULL! With 18 on the waiting list.

Thanks as ever to Viv and Roger, without whom the event would just not be possible. Thanks also to all the volunteers without whom the event would not be the huge success that it is. Our marshals efforts over the years ensure the continued success of the Two Crosses and have played a vital part in getting us to our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### IT Secretary Report

Hilary Scott read the following report to the AGM:

Thank you to all the walk leaders who have faithfully written reports and sent pictures of their walks. Virtually every walk has a report and/or pictures on the website.

Facebook has been updated throughout the year and has had some interactions from followers.

Disappointingly we still have no date for the promised website upgrade though there is a tender process now in place. I will be stepping down from the IT role when the changeover happens.

Thanks again to all of you. Hilary Scott.

### Social Secretary Report

In the last year East Lancs have held the following social events:

- Real Ale Ramble Nov 2024
- Ghyll Head Outdoor Activity Centre Dec 2024
- Christmas Cracker meal Dec 2024
- New Year away 4 nights at the Neuadd Hotel 2024/25
- Keswick Trip March 2025
- Alfa travel hotel trip to Melrose in partnership with West Lancs and arranged by Karen and Ian Wardle
- Cleveland Way trip organised by Hilary Scott
- One week self-catering at Aldebay Farm for the Flower of Suffolk 100 May 2025
- Peel Tower charity open day June 2025 where we raised £1,650 for MNDA and MS trust
- The Two Crosses/100 party kindly hosted by Dave and Alma
- The Bridlington trip for 3 nights July 2025, which included a boat trip under Bempton Cliffs RSPB centre to see the variety of seabirds, seals and cliff rock formations

All these events were well attended and many thanks to all the walks leaders who led on these events.

An active social programme is only possible if future trip venues are suggested by member, so if you have any brilliant ideas for future walking holidays please let me know.

Many thanks go to Caroline for working with me on raising funds for the completion of the Redisher Woods footpath restoration, with funds from the Martyn Greaves legacy, East Lancs funds and Bury Council. Phases 3 and 4 of the work is scheduled for Nov 25. The restoration of the Batteridge Barn car park steps is still awaiting confirmation from United Utilities. Both these projects involve creating business plans, photos of the work needed and approaching collective sources to fund the work needed. These projects once completed should enhance our 2 Crosses event in March 2026. On the subject of footpaths, if any East Lancs member can identify where footpath work needs to be undertaken again to enhance the 2 Crosses route, we could consider future collective financial investment, therefore giving back to the sport that we love.

### **Election of Officers**

The process of Election of Officers has been followed according to the East Lancashire LDWA Constitution, with following individuals elected to the named roles:

- Chair – Pauline Melia
- Secretary – Steve Clark
- Treasurer – Alma Walsh
- Walk's Secretary – Nick Halford
- Event's Secretary – Caz Tennant
- IT Secretary – Hilary Scott
- Social Secretary – Viv Lee

Ordinary Committee Members – Dave Walsh, Stephen Hindley (nominated by Nick Halford and seconded by Caz Tennant), Paul Banks, Gordon Stone (nominated by Caz Tennant and seconded by Jeanette Banks), Jeanette Banks

### **Any Other Business (AGM relevant only)**

None discussed

**AGM closed 8.50pm**

## **Normal Group Business**

### **Any Other Business**

Viv Lee brought a proposal to change the venue for the East Lancs LDWA Meetings from the Sea View Inn to the Bridge Inn at Horwich. Members discussed the implications for and against the proposal and possible next steps. The majority of the committee voted to remain at the current venue.

### **Bimonthly treasurer's report:**

Alma shared the bimonthly report regarding the EL LDWA financial status:

Current Account balance £716.38

Savings Account balance £19155.12

Payments received from the Ghyllhead 2025 accommodation amount to £2385.00 with £2217.60 being paid to GLL & £167.40 (free place £158.40 + £9.00) paid to V Lee for distribution to the attendees.

£158.85 has been paid out in respect of Walk Leader expenses.

£12000.00 was received on 7/8/25 via the NEC from the Martyn Greaves fund, which is ring-fenced now.

SI entry payments received to date in respect of the Two Crosses 2026 amount to £1657.50

When taking the above into account, our net figure over the two accounts is

£7871.50

**Date of next group Meeting** - Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 7.30pm at Sea View Inn, 2 Preston Road, Whittle-le-Woods, Chorley, PR6 7HH

**Meeting closed – 9.30pm**