

East Lancashire LDWA Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 5th November 2024

Present:

Pauline Melia	East Lancs LDWA Chair
Jeanette Banks	East Lancs LDWA Secretary
Alma Walsh	East Lancs LDWA Treasurer
Vivien Lee	East Lancs LDWA Social Secretary
Hilary Scott	East Lancs LDWA IT Secretary
Nick Halford	East Lancs LDWA Walks Secretary
Caroline Tennant	East Lancs LDWA Events Secretary
Dave Walsh	Ordinary Committee Member
Steve Clark	Ordinary Committee Member
Gordon Stone	Ordinary Committee Member
Roger Jackson	Ordinary Committee Member
Paul Banks	Ordinary Committee Member
Colleen Roberts	
Sue Boardman	
Anne Hindley	
Stephen Hindley	
Barbara Shelton	
Jean Bobker	
Phil Chapman	
Chris Greene	
Edwina Hill	
Paul Reine	
Sue Reine	
Paul Turner	
Andrew Griffin	

A big thanks to Diane and Mike of Bolton Mountain Rescue for their presentation to the group. It was a real eye opener to all that they do to help the community. Also a 'Thank you' to Bolton Mountain Rescue for hosting the presentation and the EL LDWA AGM.

Minutes of the last AGM:

The minutes of East Lancs LDWA AGM held in November 2023 have been read and confirmed as a correct record by Caroline Tennant and Hilary Scott.

Treasurer and Secretary Report:

East Lancashire LDWA AGM – 5th November 2024

First of all. Thank you to Bolton Mountain Rescue for such an entertaining presentation. It was a fantastic insight into their operations and certainly opened my eyes to the varied responsibilities and activities that they undertake. We all hope that we never need to call on their services but tonight was a reminder that if we do (both on a personal level, or as a community), we have a very professional and dedicated team on standby to come to our assistance. Thank you so much.

Recap on the year

The East Lancashire group of the LDWA has once again had a busy and successful 12 months, with a variety of activities that have attracted members old and new.

The success of the group is recognition of the dedication and hard work of our committee and our members. From engagement with the LDWA NEC, to walk schedule planning, to arranging social events, to keeping an eye on the purse strings and of course volunteering on our annual challenge event. – and all the other tasks too numerous to mention. For all of these I want to convey my sincere thanks to everyone who has been involved.

I just want to briefly summarise the year and I'm sure other committee members will expand accordingly...

The Two Crosses

This popular event goes from strength to strength. This year was very well attended and it looks like next year will be the same. Just on a personal level, I love the whole weekend. From preparations at Greenmount on the Saturday, right through the event day itself – even the tidying and sweeping up on Sunday evening! It is so rewarding to see how much entrants enjoy the event and to read their compliments on social media. Long may it continue. Many thanks to our Events Secretary Caz, Viv and Roger in support - and every single person at Greenmount and on the checkpoints, who play their part so well.

Social events.

Once again, we had a busy social calendar, with our regular / annual events and one off trips. And

I'm happy to say that the next 12 months looks the same. We have been pleased to welcome new friends onto some of the trips, who have enjoyed them so much and who will be back for more. This year we had some significant birthdays that we celebrated in style. At this point I want to thank Hilary for hosting the annual 2XS / 100 party, where we also carried on the birthday bash. Speaking of special birthdays, Nick celebrated his yesterday so many happy returns Nick, hope you had a great day celebrating and hope you enjoy the railway themed cupcakes. Our support of charities continues too, including the annual Peel Tower opening / fund raising event, another personal favourite of mine. I dare not to think of how many calories I consume on the day, as I attempt to try all the delicious confectionery provided by our wonderful volunteer bakers, but it is all in a good cause, so no reason for guilt. So thanks to our Social Secretary Viv and everyone who has made all this happen. I'll let Viv give you more of the details.

Walks programme and leaders.

We've once again had a busy walks schedule, with walks in every part of our region and beyond. Our regular leaders have been fabulous once again and are the keystone of the walks programme. (Thanks also to those who have led walks for the first time this year, it really is appreciated. However, we do need more leaders so I ask that if you regularly enjoy East Lancashire walks, you do consider helping the group by leading a walk of your own. There are many in the group who will help you, so please do give this some consideration. Thanks to our Walks Secretary Nick for all his work throughout the year.

The 100

East Lancashire once again did a splendid job by managing the breakfast stop on the 100. I experienced the care, support, and hospitality on a very personal level this year, stumbling into the checkpoint feeling very worse for wear, and being given medication, food, drink and lots of encouragement by our group. Whilst it didn't get me to the end, it did bring me back from the brink and showed me why so many entrants say so many lovely things about everyone on the checkpoint. The group or groups that take over after 2025 I'm sure will do a grand job, but the bar has been set very high by East Lancs, with Viv leading by example. We will be sure to celebrate the handover milestone during our East Anglia holiday in May.

Local Groups Meetings

We have recently moved to a new format, with the local groups meetings being more frequent and online. This makes sense and supports greater collaboration and community. I for one think this is definitely a change for the better and East Lancashire will certainly help to make these meetings achieve their objectives.

Finances

Our Treasurer Alma is doing a great job and managing finances with care and a close attention to detail. Balances remain healthy and I'm pleased that we have used some funds to donate to worthy causes, that I'm sure that Alma will advise on later..

IT

Thanks to Hilary for keeping the website and social media postings in order. These help to maintain our profile, should anyone be looking for a friendly and active long distance walking group, just as I did 6 years ago.

Secretary

Big thanks to Jeanette for keeping all the administration in order. From the committee meetings to our very regular emails and everything else in between, it is a job very well done.

I would like to name every single person who has made the last year such a success. But time doesn't permit and so I just want to say that your input does not go unnoticed and it is very much appreciated.

Treasurer's Report:

Savings Account

Savings income was generated from SI entries in respect of the Two Crosses 2024 Challenge Event £3930.28 and the NEC payment £500.00 in respect of the Speyside 100 volunteer expenses.

Other payments received into the account are from the Speyside 100 and the Ghyllhead 2024 accommodations.

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

Current Account

The main outgoings from the current account were

Two Crosses 2024 expenses

Walk leader expenses

EBB surplus payments to volunteers carried over from the previous year

Travelling expenses for volunteers on the Speyside 100

Christmas Cracker subsidy

100/Two Crosses Party expenses

Club meeting expenses

Payments to volunteers on the Speyside 100 from monies provided by the NEC

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

Current Account Balance £1813.76

Savings Account Balance £8228.18

£174.60 has been paid out in respect of Walk leader expenses.

£166.65 has been paid out to 5 of the Speyside 100 volunteers from the NEC £500 contribution

Payments received from the Ghyllhead 2024 accommodation to date amount to £2376.00, & £136 which was carried over from Ghyllhead 2023 has now been paid to V Lee.

£915.00 is still ring fenced in respect of the Martin Greaves grant.

S.I. entry payments received to date in respect of the Two Crosses 2025 amount to £544.50.

When taking all of the above into account our net figure over the two accounts is £6750.94.

Walks Secretary Report

Nick reported:

This year we have had 32 midweek and 29 weekend walks, that's 61, slightly down from last year's 64 but still more than one a week. Attendances averaged 13.5 for the midweek and 15 at the weekend, slightly up from last year's 13 and 14.

The best attended walk of the year was Roger's Christmas Cracker with 34 walkers, thank you Roger.

We have had 22 walk leaders, slightly down from last year's 25, hence the slightly fewer number walks of course. It's a very slight trend, but it would still be nice to reverse it this year, and I think that will depend on the regulars here not just leading walks, but helping to recruit new leaders too.

The most important statistic, the year's Champion Walk Leaders with the highest number of walks were once again Paul & Jeanette with 7, including the excellent Pendle Way series. Also special mention to Roger, again, and also to Steve and Noreen Martin, and Steven Gilleard, for all being not far behind with 5.

Thank you particularly to these, but a big thank you from me to all the walk leaders, it can't be said often enough.

Events Secretary Report

2024 - Another successful Two Crosses for East Lancs with 240 entrants completing the event. A profit of £2171.74 to go back into the group.

Waiting lists were used for the first time, allowing us to invite people, as entrants dropped out.

An additional permission had to be sought from Natural England which led to a couple of route diversions. Route improvements included 3 new gates from the Martin Greaves fund and Natural England paving the path across Wet Moss.

New issue of rogue entrants has arisen. Some people chose to brazenly turn up and take full advantage of our hospitality.

Otherwise all the feedback received was very positive.

2025 - Planning in progress for Sunday 9th March 2025.

No longer have to apply to Natural England as they have an agreement with United Utilities that will cover us, as long as we don't go over 250 entrants.

The steps through Redisher have been restored with the remains of the Martin Greaves money.

Rogue entrants have been strongly discouraged. The situation will be monitored through 2025 and further action taken if necessary. We cannot allow it to continue as it puts the event at risk by impacting on parking and permissions, but also on our reputation as both East Lancs and the LDWA.

Entries so far for 2025 - 106

Thanks as ever to Viv and Roger, without whom the event would not be possible. Special thanks to Viv for organising everything around her foot surgery and recovery. And thanks also to all the volunteers without whom the event would not be the huge success that it is. Your efforts help to ensure the continued success of the Two Crosses, our group and our financial security.

If you wish to support the group by entering, please do so before it gets full or if you would like to volunteer to help on the day, please contact Roger.

Social Secretary Report

Social report from AGM

East Lancs have had another active year of social events.

We have our usual favourites the RAR, Ghyll head, New Years away, Keswick, the 100 in Grantown on Spey and the years Rodgers jolly jaunt at the Patterdale hotel.

To east lancs members, I would personally like to thank all who lead walks on these social events and those who marshalled on the two crosses event and the 100 event.

Our charity event at Peel Tower in June 2024 was well supported and I thank all members who helped on the day and all walkers from East Lancs, West Lancs and the ramblers who lead walks to the tower to help us raise funds for MS trust and motor neurone disease association.

The 2025 social calendar is shaping up well with plenty of trips to suit all.
If there is any trip you wish me to organise please let me know where you want to go.
It's nice to have a change of venue.

IT Secretary Report

It has been another steady year on the IT front. There has been a move to a new server and company provider, but the promised new website seems as far away as ever. Rather disappointing considering that the money has been there for some years now.

I would like to thanks all of the walk leaders who have provided reports of their events. Also to those who have sent pictures. We have even have our first walk report written by AI!

Facebook continues to be regularly updated and followed by regular supporters.

Thanks to all of you, Hilary Scott

Election of Officers:

Jeanette confirmed that there had been no further names put forward to be nominated into EL LDWA Committee Roles. All 2023-24 officers were willing to continue in their current roles. Therefore the East Lancs LDWA Committee is as follows:

Chair	Pauline Melia
Secretary	Jeanette Banks
Treasurer	Alma Walsh
IT Secretary	Hilary Scott
Walks Secretary	Nick Halford
Events Secretary	Caroline Tennant
Social Secretary	Vivien Lee
Ordinary Members	Paul Banks
	Steve Clark
	Gordon Stone
	Roger Jackson
	Dave Walsh

Meeting closed at 10pm