

East Lancashire LDWA Group Meeting

Tuesday 12 May, 2026 at 7.30pm

Venue: Sea View Inn, 2 Preston Road, Whittle-le-Woods, Chorley, PR6 7HH

Present

Pauline Melia	Chair
Steve Clark	Secretary
Alma Walsh	Treasurer
Nick Halford	Walks Secretary
Hilary Scott	IT Secretary
Caz Tennant	Events Secretary
Viv Lee	Social Secretary
Dave Walsh	Ordinary Committee Member
Paul Banks	Ordinary Committee Member
Jeanette Banks	Ordinary Committee Member
Stephen Hindley	Ordinary Committee Member
Gordon Stone	Ordinary Committee Member
Sue Boardman	EL member

Absentees

No apologies were received.

Minutes of last meeting

Caz and Stephen H have read the minutes and confirm that they are a correct record of the meeting.

Matters arising from last meeting

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

Discharged Actions from previous meetings

Nick Children on walks – to contact the NEC with this item.

OUTCOME Nick was directed to an existing LDWA document on the matter. It was concluded that children are welcome and questions of children on walks would be treated on a case by case basis.

Brought forward actions

ACTION Caz suggested that she would investigate other possible sites to improve for the benefit of long distance walking.

UPDATE received post meeting (15 May 2026 by email)

United Utilities application and Martyn Greaves funding, looking at improving Gorse Gully, UU have sent a quote that is within the funding budget we have set aside.

NEC permission has been requested to use the funds intended for Batridge barn steps on the Gorse Gully project instead. Elaine - NEC LDWA Treasurer - has confirmed that we are ok to go ahead with this project instead.

UU have been directed to invoice to the East Lancs Treasurer with the relevant details for payment.

There should be a small amount of money left over at the end. Once we know exactly how much, I will again contact Elaine for instructions. as to whether it will need to be returned to the NEC for redistributing.

Chair and Secretary update

Pauline opened the meeting.

Treasurer's report – Alma

Current Account Balance £522.06

Savings Account Balance £12882.05

Two Payments have been made in the last period £49.99 in respect of an Officer's retirement gift and £25.00 as a deposit for the hire of Rock Haven Court, the Two Crosses Party venue.

£4500.00 is still ring fenced in respect of the Martyn Greaves grant.

Payments received from the Ghyll Head 2026 accommodation to date amount £1472.00.

When taking the above into account, our net figure over the two accounts is £7432.11

Two Crosses Accounts have been completed and have been submitted to the Events Secretary for her records.

Breakdown of Income and Expenditure as follows:

Income: SI Entries £3869.43

Expenditure: Food & Sundries £999.23 (Sundries under £25.00)

Van hire & Fuel £246.28

Greenmount Hall £190.

Soup £94.57

Boot Covers £53.94

Parking £50.00

Printing £41.00

Sub Total £1675.02

One off investment purchases

Badges £261.00

Gas stove, bottle & kettle £158.96 (CP2)

Sub Total £419.96

Grand Total £2094.98

Profit £3869.43 - £2094.98 = £1774.45

Resulting in an increase profit of £393.69 (28.5%) over last year's event.

Events Secretary – Caz

Sunday 8th March saw East Lancs run the 40th Two Crosses event.

Various administrative issues arose from SI entries updates, mainly around selling and refunding entries. We need to look at our refund policy, once SI have implemented all the updates. I will share and bring proposals for discussion at the next meeting.

Lost the parking at the pub, so we had to reduce entrant numbers. The car parking team did a marvellous job squeezing people in so we were still able to fit in a significant number of entrants.

Bury Council were able to re-stone and repair Redisher Wood steps in time for the event and United Utilities work saw improvements around Entwistle and Jumbles Reservoirs. Further route works are in the planning stages with UU. Quotes are imminent for work to improve Gorse Gully. East Lancs contribution will not exceed the agreed funding amount we have available.

40th birthday saw cake, balloons and commemorative badges for all entrants. Feedback was all positive, all mentioned either the marshals or the food.

From my perspective, it all went perfectly. A small part of that was down to lower entrant numbers, which I think meant we could give individuals more attention. The real credit as ever goes to our marshals. We have a magnificent, capable team of volunteers. I keep saying it, the event would not happen without each and every person that gives up their time for the group. East Lancs have the best marshals, thank you to all of you for keeping the Two Crosses going for the last 40 years.

Next year we are booked in for Sunday 14th March 2027.

Walk's Secretary Report – Nick

Walk dates for the East Lancs summer programme were advertised some weeks ago, and many have been taken. There are still nine dates to fill however, so would all members please check the

website Future Events tab for dates shown 'Leader Required' and contact Nick if they can lead a walk.

IT Secretary Report – Hilary

There's nothing much to say. Facebook is updated regularly. We are missing a couple of walk reports but thanks to all the people who send pictures and reports. It wouldn't happen without you.

Social Secretary Update – Viv

Saturday 6 June 2026 Two Crosses / 100 Party / celebrating 35 years of Norman Thomas being a member (13009) of the LDWA.

Venue is Rock Haven Court, Chorley Old Road (next to the RMI club), Horwich. 3pm – 8pm and food at 5pm onwards. This is a Jacobs join buffet. Drinks will be provided by the club. Let Viv know if you are attending and what you would like to bring along for the buffet. 35 places available. **Contact Viv** on 01706 824407.

21 June 2026 Peel Tower Charity Event.

9am – 4pm. Bury council have confirmed the safety of the Tower following an inspection. The charities to fundraise for on this event are MNDA, MS Trust and Prostate Cancer UK. Can you please confirm with Viv if you are able to make jams, cakes or buy and donate and help out at this event.

6 July 2026 Hawes in North Yorkshire.

A three night break. Need to book their own accommodation, then contact Viv for eating out options. 13 people confirmed to date. Walks start at 9.30am on Tuesday and Wednesday from the Fountains Hotel.

20 – 23 November 2026 Real Ale Ramble.

For three nights. Neuadd Arms Hotel, Llanwrtyd Wells, tel. 01591 610236 Book direct with the hotel, then let Viv know for evening meals. 9 people booked to date.

7 – 11 December 2026 Ghyll Head Outdoor Centre, Windermere.

Self-catering with led walks. 13 people booked to date.

Room still available: 1 twin room; 1 shared male room; 1 shared female room, contact Viv for details. Cost of accommodation £184 plus evening meals costs and small food kitty for breakfasts and packed lunches. Accommodation cost now due send to EL treasurer, Alma Walsh.

Sunday 13 December 2026 Christmas Cracker.

Walk and meal at Rivington Tea Rooms at 1.30pm, price to be confirmed but will be similar to last December. 30 places available, book early to avoid disappointment. Contact Viv to book.

29 December 2026 for four nights, New Year Eve away.

Neuadd Arms Hotel – see above for contact details. Led walks New Year Eve gala meal, torch lit procession and live music. Book direct with the hotel and let Viv know for evening meal bookings. 10 people booked to date.

22 – 25 January 2027 Old Vicarage Ambleside B & B.

Book direct (tel 015394 33364) with the B & B, then let Viv know for evening meals. Led walks on two days. Evening meal out x 3. Contact Viv re evening meals. This B & B has a swimming pool, hot tubs and sauna, so swimwear required. 7 people booked to date.

Friday 26 February 2027 for one week, Hazelwood House, Keswick.

Self-catering accommodation, cost £154 plus evening meals and food kitty. Sorry this is now fully booked but there are two good B & Bs opposite the property and you can join in the evening meals and led walks. Let Viv know for evening meal numbers.

For those already book into the house accommodation payment is now due to Neil Smith.

Agenda Items

1) Viv. Donation of £500 to Greenmount School from the Martin Greaves fund. The school has had three new boilers installed and as we have a vested interest in keeping the place running for our Two Crosses HQ, I think we could help out with a donation. This was discussed. It was generally thought that the money from the Martin Greaves fund should only be used for its original purpose. A **DECISION** was made **not** to support this donation, neither from The Martin Greaves Fund nor from East Lancs funds.

During the discussion, Nick advanced the idea that some of the EL funds could be used to support the walks program on the basis that the walks program is at the heart of what the EL do. He suggested bringing an agenda item for a future committee meeting.

ACTION Caz volunteered to write to the NEC regarding uses for the Martin Greaves fund.

UPDATE See bottom of page 1 of these minutes.

2) Pauline. Request for help with challenge walks. Spring in Lakeland, Saturday the 10th, and Sunday the 11th, of April 2027. Millstone 100 both the marshall's and the main event May 2028. Again, this was discussed. The meeting was in favour of supporting these walk but we would like have further details before a final decision.

ACTION Pauline to contact the Lakeland Group

ACTION Steve C to contact the High Peak Group

3) Alma. Safety & allergy training courses, email received 21/4 /26 from NEC. Brought to the meeting's attention. It was thought that Jacqui may be interested in this.

4) Purchase of two teapots for Two Crosses Greenmount Hall. This was discussed and approved by the meeting.

Any Other Business

None.

1 Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 14 July 2026, 7:30pm at the Sea View Inn, Whittle-le-Woods.