

LDWA, Essex & Herts Committee Meeting... Friday 25 April, 2025 at 1pm.
Writtle Village Hall 18 The Green, Writtle, Chelmsford CM1 3DU

DRAFT Meeting notes

Present: Lizzie Bridge (LB), Jackie Burnett (JB), Tracy Cottis (TC), Richard Haynes (RH), Kirsteen Newell (KN), Elaine Oddie (EO), Ginny (Powell) (GP), Jane Skinner (JS), Maggie Stevenson (MS), Peter Tremain (PT).

1. Apologies for absence: Sue Gooch, joint Secretary

2. Approval of the *February minutes*: approved

3. Matters arising:

- 3.1 Posts (JB) and Signs (KN) have been purchased for use at the 2025 Anniversary events, and beyond.
- 3.2 25th anniversary mugs will be available for the Blackwater event in late October (either 25th or 26th).
- 3.3 Essex Walker, April 2026. A sub-committee to be formed to organise this.
- 3.4 BBN to run a checkpoint (CP3 – Much Hadham Village Hall) for the 50 mile Challenge event, Saturday 26th July, 2025
- 3.5 E&H Website. There is now a Golden 50 tab.

4. Chair's update

4.1 Kirsteen thanked Lizzie Bridge for organising a very happy and successful weekend away in Selworthy. The social secretary responded by thanking the Chair and Committee for the Afternoon Tea voucher she received in appreciation for her hard work.

4.2 The Chair thanked all those who have led social walks since the last Committee meeting in February.

4.3 Kirsteen and Elaine Oddie reminded the Committee of the advantages for the E&H group gaining Community Amateur Sports Club status, which would mean tax exemption once we are registered as such with HMRC>

A brief YES/NO questionnaire has now been circulated by email to all members. Taking part in regular walks on a monthly basis qualifies as a yes. There are self-guided walks on the E&H website (GPX format) to encourage this.

5. Secretary & Membership Secretary's update

The new Secretaries, Tracey Cottis and Sue Gooch thanked the outgoing Secretary, Jackie Burnett for a smooth handover and her ongoing support. The new team has a shared email and calendar. Jane Skinner will continue to take notes at Committee meetings.

TC suggested the E&H group offer a pre-walk physio session prior to Challenge events, to be run by a qualified Physiotherapist. This idea was met with general approval.

Membership Secretary (GP) reported good membership figures:
609 Primary, 441 Associate. Total 1,051 (as at 25 April 2025)

6. Financial update (MS)

Maggie reported a healthy bank balance of £16,364 on account. Monies for the Golden 50 events are being dealt with separately.

The East Anglian Air Ambulance is to receive £100 donation.

7. Social walks update (LB)

There are opportunities for weekday and Sunday walks. Jane Skinner offered to re-run Reuben's Corner on a Sunday in the autumn, as there were only two participants on Thursday 24 April. The walk starts and finishes in Saffron Walden.

8. Volunteer guidelines (KN)

The Chair has drafted a short document to assist new volunteers in their roles at Challenge events. This was felt to be very helpful guidance.

9. Challenge events (RH, PT)

9.1. Herts Hobble: 15 June. (RH) All in hand. Maggie Stevenson and Jackie Burnett will walk this out soon to assist Richard with timings.

9.2 Golden Fifty: 26&27 July. Peter said 194 places have already been booked. He needs to inform local residents of walkers using footpaths through gardens and farmyards at unusual times, and to notify the local police of the event.

It is usual for the police to issue an Incident Number for the event.

Kirsteen has drawn up a provisional roster. Some minor changes were made at the meeting, but in general terms it was a good working document.

9.3 Stansted Stagger, January 4th 2026 (PT)

Peter has devised a new, north-easterly route for early next year, including Tilty Abbey, Easton the Rodings and Great Canfield.

10. 50th Anniversary events – see above. 9.2, and Social programme:

Epping-Ongar Railway Walk	(Wed 4 th June) – only 4 places remaining.
Afternoon Tea and Southend Bowling	(Sunday 13 July) 32 places – 20 booked, some availability.
St Peter's Way in a Day	(Saturday 23 August). Fully booked.

11. Local Groups call update (TC)

A Zoom call on 8th April agreed shared group emails for those in the roles of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Leamington Spa weekend – 7-9 November, 2025. Elaine Oddie to attend, with one other member from E&H>

12. The Flower of Suffolk 100 mile walk; checkpoints. 24&25 May

E&H is running Knoddishall. No update to report.

13. Health and safety – nothing new to report.,

14. AOB

The chair raised the subject of purchasing an online subscription for virtual meetings. The different options were discussed and the decision was made to wait until the change to all e-mails has been made as this may include Teams. In the meantime, Elaine Oddie has kindly offered the use of her zoom account for LDWA remote meetings.

15. Date of next meeting - 1pm on Friday 18 July, 2025 at Writtle Village Hall, with a walk beforehand.