

Essex & Herts LDWA Committee Meeting

Friday 15th March, 2024. 10am at 75 Springfield Road. Chelmsford

Lizzie Bridge (LB) Jackie Burnett (JB) 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.** None

2. **Introductions** – *what is important about E&H to you*

LB; with a busy teaching job, Lizzie only had time for walking holidays. Since retiring some 5 years ago, she joined LDWA and is now our Secretary for our Social Walks along with organising our annual weekend away in the Spring or Autumn.

JB joined in the 1980s and is currently Interim Secretary until a new person is ready to replace her as Secretary. She enjoys being on the Committee and would like to continue in a role to enhance the group's social media profile.

RH has been a member since 1985. Richard is responsible for all the equipment needed to run the Challenge events and this year will organise the Herts Hobble.

KN will step down from her role as a Primary School Head in August this year and is relishing the opportunity to work with our group in her new position as Chair. Kirsteen was a runner and now enjoys walking, a hobby her husband shares.

EO is standing down as Treasurer for EH and taking up the role at National level, but will remain on this committee. Elaine enjoys the logistics of organising PACER on our Challenge events and is interested in developing the technology for a safeguarding tracker.

GP has been a member since the early 90s and joined E&H in 2000. Ginny is happy to continue her role as new members' secretary and assist with the social activities of the group.

MS – took up walking in her sixties and joined the LDWA in 2017 for company on her walks. Maggie is now our Treasurer, taking over from Elaine Oddie.

JS is the newest member, having joined LDWA in Autumn 2022. Jane is now Note Taker for the Committee meetings and on the Committee for the 2025 celebrations.

PT – joined LDWA in 1991 and completed his first 100 in 1993. Formerly a fell runner and self-confessed map addict, Peter enjoys building routes and helping as a volunteer.

3. **Minutes** of Meeting on 15 January 2024 were approved.

4. **Matters arising** from previous Minutes

4.1 Checkpoint signage at Challenge Events

PT investigated mesh signs which will allow the wind to penetrate and not blow over.

However, it was agreed that our new banners and blade flags should be enough to identify checkpoints

EO emphasised the importance of participants checking in – or will face potential disqualification.

5. **New Secretary**

JB has kindly agreed to continue as Interim Secretary as no-one has come forward thus far. It was noted that the London Group has a shared Secretary role as the tasks can be divvied up. Suggestions were;

To re-word and re-advertise the Job Description

Distribute at the Essex Walker Challenge event on the day (14th April) AND

Send out details via SI entries beforehand.

6. Financial Update, Finance Sub-Committee

MS reported that the balance of £14k is now with Lloyds Bank (E&H formerly with Barclays) and banking can be done online.

The Finance Sub-Committee to comprise: Chair (KN) Former Treasurer ((EO) and Treasurer (MS).

7. Social Walks Update

LB distributed a list of the current programme of walks. She and RH are keen to build a directory of walks on the E&H Database, with gpx files.

8. Challenge Events updates

8.1 **Essex Walker** (14 April) Rosters will be sent out shortly– Gill Struthers is co-ordinating the marshals

8.2 **Herts Hobble** (23 June). RH reported that all is in hand and the SI entries will go live on 18 March.

MS & JB will walk out the 18 mile route, possibly with Georgie and Peter Hogg.

8.3 **Stansted Stagger**, (5th January, 2025)

Checkpoints will be : St John's Stansted. Green Tye Mission Hall. Farnham Village Hall.

The Stansted Stagger next year will be the first event of our 50th year. It has been proposed that gold cloth badges are issued throughout 2025 to mark the anniversary year.

9. Health and Safety

9.1 The new defibrillator will have its first airing at the Essex Walker in April. It has been provided by the Finish Line Fund

9.2 First Aid training. JB will re-send the interactive video link for CPR resuscitation training.

9.3 Food Hygiene Certificates. Levels 1 and 2 are recommended. The cost is £14 and the certificate is valid for 3 years.

10. Golden Anniversary for E&H 1974 – 2024

10.1 **Committee:** LB, KN, JS, PT. First meeting will be via Teams online. JB will advertise for more volunteers in the next email update.

10.2 **Budget of £5k** was agreed at the AGM in February 2024.

10.3 **50 Mile Event** (25 miles in each county). To take place over two days, Saturday and Sunday.

Date still to be decided to avoid clashes with other groups' challenge events,

Potential Venue: Manuden Community Centre. A new building, with well equipped kitchen and ample parking, including fields. PT will book once date has been confirmed.

11. The Annual 100 Mile Walks

The 2024 event is taking place in Speyside, Scotland, so E&H will not be involved. However, in 2025 we will be helping at Knoddishall (CP7) 49.5 miles for The Flower of Suffolk 100. Gill Struthers to be responsible for independent kit check.

2026 – Hunnypot 100 – to be run by Kent group. We have provisionally been allocated a CP at Cowden.

2027 – Devon. We have yet to decide to run a checkpoint. Seaton has been mooted. JB will contact the organiser.

12. Triple Challenge

The meeting agreed to JB's proposal that Triple Challenge certificates can be awarded for completion of any three E&H challenge events in a two year period.

13. Storage facility

RH has all the equipment required for challenge events stored in his garage in Letchworth. A more central location with 24/7 access would be preferable using lock-up self-storage units in Harlow.

25 – 35 Cubic metres capacity.

KN to liaise with RH.

14 AOB

LB reported that E&H is under-represented in Strider. We need more write-ups for our social walks, with photos.

15 Date of Next Meeting (Walk and Talk)

Writtle Village Hall on Thursday 6th June at 1pm. PT to lead a morning walk from Writtle prior to the meeting.

The meeting closed at midday. Our thanks to Elaine Oddie for providing the venue and refreshments.