

Essex & Herts LDWA Committee Meeting

Thursday 3rd October 2024, 1.00 pm

Present: 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:** were received from Tracy Cottis, (TC) Sue Gooch (SG).
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2024:** approved, with amendments to St Peter' Way in a Day which will take place on Saturday 23rd August 2025. The bowling afternoon tea has yet to be confirmed.
3. **Matters arising from previous minutes:** LB will purchase a Costco card in December to cover events in our anniversary year.
4. **Chair's update:** KN thanked those for organizing social walks recently and to Peter Tremain for organizing the forthcoming Christmas lunch on 11th December
5. **Secretary & Membership Secretary updates**
 - 5.1 JB took part in a national meeting for Local Groups via Zoom (see attached notes)
 - 5.2 GP reported we have 1,074 members in total, with 620 primary members, the highest number of any local group. Overall, the numbers remain steady.

6. **Financial update:** as of 1st October, our bank balance was £13,320.56

The Herts Hobble financial results were Entries: £3,023,94. Expenses: £1605 (halls, refreshments, marshals, certificates) Surplus: £1,418.

7. Social walks update

LB has produced a calendar for 2024/2025 and is looking for volunteers to lead walks to fill the gaps.

JS has offered a circular walk from Swan Meadow CP, Saffron Walden to Ashdon one Sunday in Spring next year.

KN is planning a Volunteers Thank You from Hadleigh Country Park on Sunday 24 November, to include a walk and afternoon tea.

8. Challenge Events:

- Herts Hobble 2024 feedback – *see attached*
- Stansted Stagger 2025 (Sunday 5 January)

PT reported that there are 99 entries so far. Another new route which has been checked by MS and JB Green Tye Mission Hall doesn't have Wi-Fi

Little Hallingbury: has pantomime rehearsals taking place and there may be a church service (parking etc) to contend with.

Marshals: 9 offers so far. More people are needed.
- Herts Hobble 2025: possible date Sunday 15th June (Marshals' Walk Thursday 8th May?) RH to confirm

9. 50th Anniversary Events

The launch of E&H Golden celebrations will be on 5th January at the Stansted Stagger. Neckwarmers will be distributed at the start for photo opportunities. There will be a celebratory cake at the finish.

9.1 Golden 50 mile Challenge Walk on the weekend of 26/27 July 2025.

- Initial costings: (PT) £680 for all the halls we are using, with £520 for Manuden at start, finish and mid-point. There will be six checkpoints and a meal stop at Manuden.
- An organizing committee is required for this event. KN & JB offered to help. Gill Struthers to be asked if she will coordinate the marshals 'walk. Entrants on the main event to be encouraged to marshal the marshals' walk.
- JB will check that the Marshals' Walk on 28/29 June next year can be used as a qualifier for the 2026 100 Challenge event.

9.2 Other events/walks: LB ran through the latest walks calendar.

9.3 JB will order 50th Anniversary badges to cover all our 2025 events

9.4 AGM will take place on Sunday 23 February 2025, exactly 50 years to the day since E&H LDWA first walk.

There will be a walk from Leaden Roding Village Hall at 8.30, followed by the AGM at 11am. Following the meeting, there will be a social afternoon at 1pm with tea and cake.

JB to check whether we can amend our Constitution to have 11 Committee members

JB & KN have arranged to meet the two new incoming Secretaries, Tracy Cottis and Sue Gooch in December.

10. Equipment: A list of current stock was circulated with written comments from JB. A brief discussion followed, with thanks to KN who drew up the list of items. JB to order some replacement stackable jugs and posts for 'Caution Walker' signs

11. 100 Checkpoints:

- Flower of Suffolk 100 - 24/25 May 2025 Mick (E&H checkpoint) and Gill (kit check) have had a good response to their requests for volunteers
- No further updates on future 100s

12. Health & Safety: Encourage members to carry emergency contact number details on social walks (e.g. on their LDWA membership card or phone)

13. AOB

- Car sharing – It was felt that enough is already being done to promote and encourage this informally. A gentle reminder could be posted in the Updates, Facebook and WhatsApp group
- Litter picking – JS suggested someone could walk at the back, use a litter-picker grabber and pop items into a rucksack worn by another walker, to save time removing his/her own bag. RH suggested we have a special Litter Walk once a year in an area where we know litter is dropped. Ramblers and possible CPRE may do this already, so we have a model to follow, if needs be
- EO has nominated E&H to act as a guinea pig and register as a CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club) for transparency and clarity over tax matters. The Committee welcomed the idea. EO and MS to complete the forms.

14. Date of next meeting: Thursday 6 February 2025, Writtle Village Hall, with a walk beforehand