

Essex & Herts LDWA Committee Meeting

Thursday 6th February 2025, 1pm, Writtle Village Hall

Present: Kirsteen Newell (KN) Richard Haynes (RH) Peter Tremain (PT) Elaine Oddie (EO) Maggie Stevenson (MS) Ginny Powell (GP) Jackie Burnett (JB) Lizzie Bridge (LB) Sue Gooch (SG)

Action

1. **Apologies for absence:** Jane Skinner (JS), Tracy Cottis (TC)
2. **Approve the minutes of the previous meeting:** Approved as a true record
3. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising
4. **Chair's Update:** Kirsteen welcomed everyone and thanked PT for the morning walk. She commented that the Stansted Stagger was a brilliant start to our Anniversary year with a great atmosphere with bunting, balloons, cake and neck warmers
5. **Secretary & Membership Secretary's update**
 - Current membership stands at 1107 (Primary:645, Associate:462). This is slightly higher than at the same time last year.
 - Email updates sent out twice per month
 - NEC contacted re raising the number of Committee members to 11. EO suggested we set a maximum of 15 members
 - Volunteer award submitted to NEC
6. **Financial Update**
 - Current balance £13996
 - We still have some money from the Martin Greaves for checkpoint signage: JB will purchase more posts, and KN will source signs
 - The residue of all legacies and funds will be consolidated into the Golden 50 budget
 - Stansted Stagger had a £1600 surplus
 - After discussion at the meeting it was decided not to put a cap on marshals' travelling expenses
7. **Social Walks Update**
 - Lizzie circulated the latest Available Walks Dates. Two Sussex walks have been added in June, and there is the possibility of a shorter walk in March. LB to contact JS about a Saffron Walden Walk
 - 36 are booked on the Away Weekend at Selworthy: LB will arrange the Prosecco reception
8. **Challenge Events**
 - **Stansted Stagger:** PT seconded KN's words about the buzzing atmosphere at St John's Hall and the checkpoints and thanked JB and our great team of marshals. There were 59 no shows (Mostly weather related) and 125 finishers. At one point there were 60 on the waiting list - possibly

more popular as it was marathon length. Unfortunately, we had two accidents on the day – PT wished Tracy and Roy well

2026 Stagger will be on 04/01/2026 (marshals' walk 16/11/2025). St John's Hall is booked and the route will go towards Canfield and the Eastons.

Herts Hobble: Baldock Scout Hut, Tesco parking and Benington Village Hall (which will be visited twice on the long route) have been booked. Two potential locations for water stops

Blackwater Marathon: Rugby club booked. JB to let Jean know we can give entrants 25th anniversary mugs JB

Essex Walker 2026: PT is stepping down, so a new organiser/ organising committee is needed' To be included in a future email update. Potential to use the 2020 route SG/TC

9. 50th Anniversary Events

• **Golden 50 Saturday 26th – Sunday 27th July**

- Currently 123 entries.
- Checkpoints will be at Standon, Thundridge (drinks stop), Much Hadham, Manuden, Arkesden and Quendon.
- JB to contact BBN who have offered to help on a Herts checkpoint JB
- Gill Struthers thinks she has enough people to marshal the marshals' walk: PT to book the small room at Manuden PT
- Organising committee: Peter, Jackie, Kirsteen and Elaine: at least one more needed

• **Heritage railway trip: Wednesday 4th June**

- Bookings open on 01/03/2025. LB to book 40 seats initially. Cost for LDWA members £15.00, friends and family £35.00
- Deposit for 4 places required.
- JB has planned a circular walk from Ongar - c 8 miles before train ride and 4 miles after. Regular bus service between Ongar and North Weald for those who don't want to walk

• **Bowling and Afternoon Tea Sunday 13th July**

- EO will lead morning walk
- LB has booked rinks and teas with her bowling club
- The cost works out at £17 per head: suggest that participants pay £5 each

• **Seaside Walk with ice cream Saturday 2nd August**

- GP & Steve have walked out route
- Not sure how we will pay for ice cream for all yet!

• **St Peters Way in a Day Saturday 23rd August**

- Minibuses and halls at Stock and Steeple booked
- Organising team – MS, LB and Mike Wheatley
- Up to 32 participants - suggested they pay £10 towards costs
- LB to send JB background information

• **Volunteers Thank you event: Sunday 23rd November**

We agreed that booking for all the 50th anniversary social events will open at the AGM. KN will prepare a spreadsheet to use. KN

JB will create a 'Golden Anniversary' tab on our website to collate information JB

10. AGM:

- JB reminded Officers and Challenge event organisers that reports need to be on our website by Saturday 15th February
- LB to bring cake
- Attendees to be asked to bring E&H and LDWA memorabilia

11. Equipment: KN confirmed that equipment can remain at Wickford for another year, but we do need to find a more central location

12. 100 Checkpoints

- **Flower of Suffolk 2025:** KN liaising with Jayne Cook re lending kitchen equipment KN
- **Hunnypot 2026:** JB in correspondence re catering at E&H checkpoint JB

13. Health and Safety

- Two accident report forms submitted after Stagger: one entrant required hospital treatment
- EO clarified that the LDWA Personal Accident Insurance covers any additional costs caused by an accident
- JB will circulate Food Hygiene and Food Allergy course details JB

14. AOB: there was no AOB. KN thanked everyone for coming

15. Date of next meeting: Friday 25th April, 1pm, Writtle Village Hall