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**March 2021 Monthly Update**

Dear All,

Is there finally a glimmer of light and the end of a very long tunnel?

Following the Government's announcement about the road-map out of lockdown the LDWA Chair, David Morgan, issued the following statement:

**On 22.02.21 the NEC COVID-19 sub-committee met to discuss the statement made by the Prime Minister to the House of Commons in relation to the road-map out of the current lockdown in England. It was noted that organised sport might be able to commence from 29.03.21 although the exact detail of what exactly will be allowed has not been published. Between now and the 29.03.21 the NEC will seek to engage the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and establish what will be allowed under the auspices of our National Governing Body sport status. Once it has been clarified what can be allowed, the NEC will update the membership and advise of any necessary paperwork that has to be completed. Thank you for your understanding.**

So, what does this mean for our challenge events this year? Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the Essex Walker which had been planned for April, but the following events have been tentatively added to our programme.

**Herts Hobble** - Sunday 27th June (Marshals’ Walk Sunday 6th June)

**Three Forests Way** – Saturday 11th September – Sunday 12thSeptember

**Blackwater Marathon** - Saturday 23rd October

If any of these events do go ahead this year, we will of course need **marshals** to ensure they run smoothly.  We realise that it is exceedingly difficult for any of us to commit to helping at the moment, but an indication of numbers willing to help would be useful. So, if you think you may be able to help at any of these (including help with setting halls up the night before), please let me know at [essexandherts@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:essexandherts@ldwa.org.uk)

Marshals’ walks will be arranged for the Three Forests Way and The Blackwater Marathon in due course.

Meanwhile, the closing date for **The Stagger Anytime Challenge**has been extended until Sunday 4th July.  Definitely enough time for any lingering mud to clear!  Entries are open now:  [SiEntries - The Stagger Anytime Challenge](https://www.sientries.co.uk/event.php?elid=Y&event_id=7837)

**Virtual - Y 100 Sir Fynwy**

Over 270 LDWA members have already signed up for this year’s virtual 100, including a few hardy souls (and their hardy soles) from Essex and Herts.

If you have already entered, why not use our Facebook page to let us know more about your route and how your training is going.  Or if you are not sure about entering or need any help, support or advice, get in touch as you may find there are others in a similar position or members who would be happy to provide you with some practical support on your challenge.

You can find out more about the [Virtual Y  100 Sir Fynwy here,](https://www.ldwa.org.uk/2021Hundred)

**LDWA Emails**

If this email, or any others you receive from the national LDWA or other local groups, land in your Spam/Junk folder rather than your Inbox, these [instructions](https://ldwa.org.uk/lgt/downloads/EssexAndHerts/Managing_Spam.docx) might help.

**Slow Ways**

I mentioned the Slow Ways project which aims to create a network of walking routes joining towns and villages across the country in a previous update, and I know a few of you have signed up to the project. Unfortunately, the launch has been delayed because of the current Covid-19 restrictions, but for anyone who is interested in finding out more here is a link to the [Slow Ways](https://slowways.uk/) website.

**Don’t lose your way**

Another ongoing project is the Ramblers' campaign to identify lost paths in England and Wales, and hopefully eventually restore some of these. A map showing an amazing 49000 miles of lost paths is now available on their web site - it's fascinating to see where paths once existed in the local area. The one that caught my eye runs to the north of Rye Hill Road (which is just to the south of Harlow) and would be a much better route for The Three Forests Way, The Stort Valley Way and the The Forest Way.

[Don't Lose Your Way](https://dontloseyourway.ramblers.org.uk/map)  (NB you will have to register to see the map)

The next monthly update is due towards the end of March - fingers crossed that we will be starting to plan a programme of social walks by then.

In the meantime, enjoy the signs of Spring on your local walks

Keep Happy Feet,

Jackie