**LDWA Lakeland Group 10th Annual General Meeting**

**Newby Bridge Hotel, Newby Bridge, 2.30pm, 25 November 2023**

**Member Attendees:**

Robert Nutton (Chair), Nicky Wood (Secretary), Thomas Sellers (Walks Secretary and Webmaster), Ian Dyer (Committee), , Julie Collins, Stephen Dunstan, Gordon and Debbie Everard, Martin and Paula Hudson, Anna Maciejkowicz, Victoria Morris (Guest Speaker), Margaret Parker, Alan Parker, David and Gill Peach, Helen Rawlinson, Caroline Roy, Ian Scott, Chris Seddon, Rob Sykes, Ken Wyles, Ann Marie Verner

**Apologies of Absence**

Tony Willey (Treasurer), Fred Stubbs (Committee), James Bellarby, Karen Goodyear, Mark Hawker, Jane Johnson, John Manning, Kathryn Padgett, Garry Richards, Helen Stubbs, Richard Tait, Barry Utting, Christine Willey, Jenny Wyles,

**2 Minutes of 2022 AGM**

Minutes agreed as an accurate record, proposed by Robert Nutton, seconded by Ian Dyer.

**3 Matters Arising**

Nicky noted that accommodation is now booked for Speyside Way hundred, based at Aviemoor, with one male room space in a twin available for the week at the end of May 2024. Purchase of Gillets is outstanding.

**4 Chairman’s Report**

Robert reported on a successful year for the group with plenty of interesting walks. He welcomed several new members who have become regulars since last year and some new members today. He reported that we have particularly enjoyed joint walks with our friends from East Lancashire, and hosted visitors from Cumbria and West Yorkshire Groups. Long distance paths have featured again with two trips away to complete medium length paths, and the Kendal Limestone Way split over four days. He is looking forward to hearing more about the Castles of Eden long distance path, the South Tyne path and other initiatives in the pipeline. He outlined ideas for a couple of foreign trips he is prepared to organise if anyone is interested, and provided ‘sign up’ sheets for these.

**5 Secretary’s Report**

Nicky gave an overview of the social walks which have taken place since the November 2022 AGM. We have enjoyed a strong year with new members and plenty of interesting walks. Highlights include:

* A three day trip to complete the Yorkshire Heritage Way; Bradford to Ripon Cathedrals
* Three Wainwright Wander walks including a weekend based at Threlkeld with some challenging climbs
* Two joint walks with East Lancashire group
* The Four Passes route in challenging conditions
* Four day walks to complete the beautiful Kendal Limestone Way – completed almost all in sunshine
* Glorious sunshine for the three day trip walking the North Tyne Way in October.
* A walk around Walney, a visit to Eden and a heatwave experience near Newbiggin.

That’s Lyth’s 41st event was successful and planning is going well for 28 January 2024 with over 230 entrants. Spring in Lakeland is being co-ordinated by Mark Hawker for 14 April 2024. Sign-up sheets for Marshals for both events are available.

Members were encouraged to add their own pictures and stories to the Lakeland Facebook page – it doesn’t just have to be group walks; if you have had a great day out of interest to others just share your post from your own page in two clicks. Nicky has updated the ‘Walk Reports and Photos’ section of Lakeland website with many photos from each walk we have had in 2023 and will be working over the next couple of weeks to add photos for 2022 walks. Do take a look. Tom has moved all older reports and photos to the section called ‘Old Walk Reports’

**6 Social Walks Co-ordinator/Webmaster’s Report**

Tom gave an update on what is coming up in the programme. The deadline for the next programme is the end of January and Tom will send an email inviting walk leaders to submit ideas fairly soon. That will be for the April Strider so the summer walks programme. There is a lot in the pipeline with an exciting year ahead including:

6 December Joint walk from Newby Bridge with East Lancs group (different walk from today)

17 December Mince Pie walk from Staveley

7 January That’s Lyth Marshals’ walk

13 January January Jolly walk from Stainforth Knight’s Table, with a lunch afterwards

18 February Hutton Crags walk

09 March Bootle to Green Road, West Cumbria on England Coast Path – using trains

16 March Spring in Lakeland Marshals’ walk

23 24 25 March South Tyne Way walking holiday

Sign-up sheets were provided for bookable walks. Several new members have expressed an interest in leading a walk for us and we are very appreciative. Rest assured you will be supported on the day, so no stress.

**7** **Finance Officer’s Report**

Tony sent his apologies, he has family over from America for thanksgiving. Ian Dyer stood in to report.

* We are solvent, with a balance of £5308 and a gain of £614 on the year. Our income source last year was predominantly That’s Lyth giving us a profit of £2035.
* Donations we have made this year are £800 including £200 each to the Pennine Mountain Rescue, Bowland Mountain Rescue, CALM Mental Health Charity and Cumbria Wildlife Trust (a match funded ongoing project to secure land for wildlife). We chose not to donate to the 3 Dads Walking, just because they had so much publicity they were doing very well already.
* We have £700 held in reserve to donate to the IT fund. We have made donations already to this fund and want to see the project more established before we add further to the pot.
* Our subsidised activities include the AGM (last year) and some mini buses for the linear walks (Yorkshire Heritage Trail – North Tyne self-funded completely).

Robert commented that a by-product of That’s Lyth was that surplus food was taken to the food banks in Settle so there was no waste. Robert is happy to perform this duty again in January 2024.

**8 Nominations and election of 2023/24 Committee Members**

Robert reported that Fred Stubbs has decided to stand down from the committee due to work and family commitments. The remaining five existing members are happy to stand again. They are Robert Nutton (Chair), Nicky Wood (Secretary), Tom Sellars (Social Walks and Web Co-ordinator), Tony Willey (Treasurer), and Ian Dyer (Meet-Up Coordinator). There were no further new nominations. We would appreciate a further committee member, and a role identified would be to supervise our Facebook Page ensuring events are promoted there in advance. Fred was thanked for all his hard work on the committee. The five members were voted back on block. Proposed by Margaret Parker, seconded by Helen Rawlinson.

**9 Motions requiring a vote**

**9a Suggestions for Charity Donations for this year were requested.**

Helen Rawlinson proposed a very small, one lady charity in Dalton rescuing Hedgehogs. Any funding goes 100% to the hedgehogs and this small charity will appreciate the support. Members supported this idea. Nicky commented that we will be making a donation to Victoria Morris our guest speaker for her chosen charity (Mental Health Research). Victoria explained that all the administrators of this small charity are volunteers so 100% of the donation goes straight into the important research. The charity was set up to ensure mental health received research in the same way as Cancer.

**10 Topics for Discussion**

There were no topics for discussion. Nicky updated that from last year’s discussion we are pleased to confirm Mark Hawker is taking the lead co-ordinator role for Spring in Lakeland on 14 April 2024 and we will after that review whether we are able to host the 50 mile event which was impacted so much by Covid.

**11 Feedback from the Local Group Reps Meeting**

We were unable to attend this year as we were all attending our own group event. We understand some notes will be circulated from the weekend. It took a different format this year with a less formal agenda.

**12 Any other Business**

Nicky has learnt that the IT project mentioned by Ian Dyer earlier has now been kick started with a steering Project. Nicky has been invited to be on this but stresses her involvement will be more as a regular user than a technician. We will report back to you on progress. If anyone is interested in getting involved in the project (to run over two years or so) then do speak to Nicky. It is an important project given that so many activities are booked through links on the website and the dynamic nature of the website social walks, challenge walks and long distance paths sections.

**The meeting was closed at 3.30m**. It was followed by a talk on The Highpoints county tops walk from John O Groats to Lands End by Victoria Morris (who will also be talking at the National AGM in March 2024.