

**LDWA Lakeland Group 12th Annual General Meeting
Newby Bridge Hotel, 2.15pm, 29 November 2025**

Member Attendees:

Robert Nutton (Chair), Nicky Wood (Secretary), Tony Willey (Treasurer), Thomas Sellers (Walks Secretary), Ian Dyer (Committee), James Bellarby, Bernice Blundell, Mark Blundell, Kevin Burge, Julie Collins, Catherine Corless, Clare Edgar, Gordon and Debbie Everard, Gordon and Jackie Furness, Alan Jones, Graham Lightowler, Anna Maciejkowicz, Ruth Nelson, Kathryn Padgett, Margaret and Alan Parker, Gina Perryman, Helen Rawlinson, Garry Richards, Colleen Roberts, Caroline Roy, Ian Scott, Chris Seddon, Fred and Helen Stubbs, Rob Sykes, Ann-Marie Verner, Anne Wade (NEC 100s Co-ordinator), Sonia Woods, Ken Wyles,

Apologies of Absence

Wendy Dodds, Karen Goodyear, Mark Hawker, Jo Jackson, Lisa Spratling, Richard Tait, Barry Utting, Jenny Wyles
No Show Colin Firth.

2 Minutes of 2024 AGM

Minutes agreed as an accurate record by the attendees.

3 Matters Arising No matters arising. Please note that nothing came of the Northern Collective group which had been proposed last year by the West Lancashire Group.

4 Chairman's Report

Robert commenced by thanking everyone for attending and congratulating members on key achievements this year including: Robin Sykes and Mark Hawker – Flower of Suffolk 100; Ann-Marie Verner - 3rd round of Wainwrights; Mark Hawker – London Marathon; Jackie and Gordon Furness, Caroline Roy, Ian Scott, Tom Sellers, Robin Sykes, Richard Tait and Nicky Wood – completion of Highland Coast to Coast; Lisa Spratling and Robin Sykes – 50 Mile Foot in Two Dales; Colleen Roberts and Robin Sykes – Rotherham 50, Robin Sykes – Across Wales Challenge; Debbie Everard and Ann-Marie Verner – Keswick to Barrow; Gordon and Jackie Furness – The Woldsman; and Clare Edgar for becoming Chair of Cumbria group.

Robert also referred to the many interesting walks and trips the group has enjoyed this year, at weekends and midweek, and reported on our lucky record with the weather. Robert confirmed he is standing down as our chairperson due to living mostly in Spain.

5 Secretary's Report

Nicky summarised her written report. The group has enjoyed 19 weekend walks led by seven leaders. If anything, too many have been linear day walks involving minibuses/public transport – we will try to have more circular walks in 2026, dependant on volunteer leaders. Highlights have included three Wainwright Wander days led by Ian Scott, the three stages of the Castles of Eden organised by Tony Willey and the Friends Way Barley to Sedbergh tackled over two weekends. Also, a great week attending the Flower of Suffolk 100 and a week in the far north of Scotland for the Highland Coast to Coast plus hill walking. Our most recent trip was Part One of John Muir Way (Part two in March).

Wednesday Legs walks have continued to prosper completing 10 stages of the Lakeland Way, the four stages of Great Lakes Connection from Grange-over-Sands to Penrith, plus a couple of circular walks. The last two stages of the Lakeland Way are planned for April 2026. Our next walk is a joint walk with East Lancashire on 10 December.

It has also been rewarding to successfully bid for Martin Greaves Funding and provide training for our future leaders in first aid (24 people trained) and leadership/navigation skills (38 people trained). We had visitors from Northumbria, London, South Scotland, East and West Lancs and West Yorkshire on the courses. The final first aid course from the funding will hopefully be 14 February 2026.

6 Social Walks Secretary's Report

Tom outlined the walks in our forthcoming programme and explained he is stepping down from this role. Events in the programme so far include:

10 December	Joint Wednesday walk from Lindale with East Lancs group
20 December	Mince Pie Walk Dales Way Burneside to Bowness with mince pies at Staveley
04 January	That's Lyth Marshals' Walk
25 January	That's Lyth Challenge Event
15 February	Pennine Edges Explorer
21 February	Lakeland Group Attending Cracoe Cracker Challenge Event
08 March	Lakeland Group Attending Two Crosses Challenge Event
15 March	Spring in Lakeland Marshals Walk
21–25 March	John Muir Way Part Two

12 April	Spring in Lakeland
15 & 16 April	Lakeland Way Stages 11 and 12 Ravenglass to Rosthwaite via Wasdale Head
18 April	Wainwright Wander from Ambleside
2–3 May	Hadrian's Highway Part 1
22–29 May	Lakeland Group Attending Hunnypot Hundred in Kent/Sussex
13-14 June	Wainwright Wander Weekend – Braithwaite/ Whinlatter
13–18 Sept	Diamond Way Cotswolds Holiday
TBC	Swale Way Walk in Swaledale as a holiday trip.

During 2025 Robin introduced to the programme the idea of attending more challenge walks as a Lakeland team. These opportunities will be put in our walking calendar alongside our group walks to encourage more attendance at these core LDWA activities. Robert also offered to lead walks in the areas of Spain he knows.

7 Finance Officer's Report

Tony presented our audited accounts to the 30 September 2025. Income for That's Lyth and Spring in Lakeland is down a little because less people pay non-LDWA premium entry fee. Nearly all entrants now are members. Food costs have also increased. Our subsidised activities included the AGM at Leighton Hall, which was expensive, so we need to consider future cost implications. We also subsidised mince pies at Christmas and made small contributions to minibus costs for events. We have had some costs associated with creating our new logo and buying badges, hats, and buffs, but we will recoup much of that as we sell this stock (£219 in sales today). Our finances are still in good shape with a balance of £6378 on 30 September 2025. The Martin Greaves Fund is within budget.

Charitable donations for 2024-25 amounted to £701:

£200 to Fix the Fells

£100 Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining Historical Society via Mark Hatton our 2024 AGM speaker

£401 Match Funding for Mark Hawker's Macmillan London Marathon Fundraising.

Members were asked where they would like to see charitable donations to go this year. Suggestions included:

- North West Air Ambulance – Ann-Marie Verner (our second-hand clothes stall today has raised £60)
- Red Squirrels – Robin Sykes
- Mountain Rescue Teams – Debbie Everard with suggestions of Duddon MRT for their new building.
- Fix the Fells – James Bellarby

Action: These will be addressed at the next Committee Meeting.

8 Nominations and election of 2025/26 Committee Members

Robert reported that three officers are happy to remain in post: they are Nicky Wood (Secretary), Tony Willey (Treasurer), and Ian Dyer (Meet-Up Coordinator). Robert is retiring from the post of Chair, and we thank him very much for his service over the years. Tom is resigning from post of Social Walks Secretary to stand for the post of Chair. So, we had four nominations to vote for:

Tom Sellers – Nominated by Mark Hawker as Chair. Proposed: Debbie Everard, Seconded: Ian Dyer

Robin Sykes – nominated by Tom Sellers as Walks Secretary. Proposed: Robert Nutton, Seconded: Debbie Everard

Mark Hawker – nominated by Nicky Wood as Committee Member. Proposed: Margaret Parker, Seconded: Tom Sellers

Lisa Spratling – nominated by Ann-Marie Verner as Committee Member. Proposed: Sonia Woods, Seconded: Colleen Roberts.

A show of hands for each of these nominations saw that a majority were in favour of electing these persons.

NB Lisa Spratling and Sonia Woods have also volunteered to look after our Lakeland LDWA Facebook page.

9 Motions requiring a vote There were no motions requiring a vote.

10 Topics for Discussion

10a New Logo and Clothing Range Caroline Roy outlined the work undertaken by the clothing subcommittee (Debbie Everard, Ian Dyer, and Caroline Roy). We proudly launched our new logo inspired by Slater Bridge, Little Langdale (see website or Strider) and our new clothing range in Lakeland Green/Black which includes:

**Beanie Hats £12.00, Peek Caps £12.60, Buffs £15.00 Performance T-Shirts £12.60,
Organic Cotton T-shirts £12.50, Polo Shirts £15.00, Long sleeved performance T-Shirt £18.00**

A stall was set up to enable members to purchase hats and buffs and to try on samples of T-shirts. There will be a further opportunity to try items on at our 10 December Walk. All items can be purchased online from PECO at www.customsportskit.co.uk/other-clubs/ldwa-lakeland/. The subcommittee were thanked for all their hard work, in particular Caroline for leading the project to fruition. Caroline thanked Ann-Marie for her logo idea, and Ian Dyer's granddaughter for her design skills.

Action: We will put this link on the home page of our website.

10b Lakeland Group Potentially hosting a 50-mile Spring in Lakeland in 2027 and an LDWA 100 in 2030.

Firstly, we discussed the 50-mile event. This event was impacted twice within three weeks of being staged, by covid in 2020 and again 2021. We therefore have in place equipment purchased specially, a great route and most of the paperwork to host this event. These would need revising. Tony devised a route of three loops from Staveley, involving nine checkpoints over six physical locations. We had offers of help to run checkpoints from two other LDWA groups plus Kendal Fellwalkers, Kendal Ramblers, and volunteers from Lakeland Horticultural Society, Holehird. We can explore if these offers are still available.

It is felt that it would be good to see this event go forward after so much preparatory work took place for it. Robin explained that it would be a good training exercise for a core committee hosting a Lakeland Hundred. Mark Hawker was not present to comment at the AGM but we think he is happy to be lead officer to host this in Spring 2027 (this would be a one off initially instead of the annual 24 mile Spring in Lakeland). Clare commented that it would be like the successful three Rings of Shap that Cumbria used to host. Anne Wade confirmed that it would be great to have a further northern 50 to offer as a qualifier for the 100 event. **A show of hands confirmed about 60% of the attendees would like to see this happen and would be happy to step up and help.**

Action: Project to be developed by Core 100 Committee once elected.

Secondly, we discussed a proposed Lakeland Wainwright 100. Anne Wade, the NEC Hundreds Coordinator attended our meeting to help facilitate this discussion. Anne recently invited groups to host the 2029 and 2030 hundreds. Heart of England have agreed to host 2029 from a base near Tewksbury walking in the Malverns, and Lisa Spratling approached Anne expressing interest in bringing the Hundred to the Lake District.

We have completed an email to all primary & associate Lakeland members seeking expressions of interest and have had a healthy and enthusiastic response. This included offers of help from people with experience on previous hundred committees. We have also approached the Wainwright Society to establish whether we can use the Wainwright brand and that work is ongoing. Anne outlined for us some key pointers of what is involved and urged us all to refer to the Toolkit on the website which she has drastically revised to make it more user friendly.

Robin urged the attendees not to be nervous of voting for the event to go forward. Individuals are not necessarily signing up for a lot of work. A small core committee would complete the initial work and as the workload grows closer to the event, volunteers would be asked to step up and take on duties according to their time available. Everyone taking a small task will eventually create a successful event. And don't forget we would have help from around the country with groups coming to staff the checkpoints. He urged us to feel excited rather than burdened and be enthusiastic about bringing this event to our fantastic location. He personally is excited to be a part of it.

Tom mentioned that a very first draft route had been outlined by Ian Scott, paying attention to practicalities such as checkpoint facilities and transport pressures for the minibuses at a bank holiday.

Nicky clarified that the Hundred Committee would be a separate committee to the main Lakeland LDWA Committee with some overlaps of personnel. Tony and Anne clarified that the finances would also remain separate from the Lakeland LDWA Group and there is no expectation for the Lakeland Group to spend money on the Hundred event. The money comes via the NEC from the entry fees. **A show of hands confirmed that a majority of the attendees would love to see this happen and would be happy to help in some format.**

Action: Project to be developed by Core 100 Committee once elected.

10c Price of Events and Costs of AGM

A general discussion was held about the price we charge for our key events That's Lyth and Spring in Lakeland, and the money we spend each year hosting our AGM. Nicky offered to find a cheaper way to host the AGM this year (and achieved a £13 reduction per head), but also, we have more people attending – a great problem to have!

The committee was given a clear steer from the attendees that:

- Our prices charged for events seem currently too cheap compared even to other LDWA events.
- It is good to incentivise things for members by a small amount and offer members early entry to events.
- Members would be happy to make a financial contribution to the AGM meal if our finances required that.

Action: To be discussed further by the new committee.

11 Any other Business There was no other business.

The meeting was closed at 3.30pm. It was followed by an interesting and apt talk by Andy Beck about his methodology for creating his Wainwrights in Colour book, inspired by the Wainwright pictorial guides. Limited Edition signed copies were available to purchase.