

London LDWA Walks Secretary's Report for AGM 25th February 2026

I apologise for my absence at this AGM.

I am currently away, as I will be for some parts of the coming year. I will still be able to put proposed walks onto the "Current Walk Programme" page of the website but there might be delays of up to two weeks. Our Chair, Gavin Fuller, has kindly offered to deal with any short notice offers of walks in my absence so any such offerings should be copied to him in case I am unable to deal with them in a timely manner.

On our walks in 2025 we had 266 different participants which is almost identical to last year (267). Of these 154 were female and 112 male.

We were able to match the achievement of 2024 by having a walk available to members on every weekend of 2025 – every Saturday bar two had a social walk; of the two weekends there was not a social walk on the Saturday one had a walk on the Sunday and the other saw the staging of the Capital Challenge. In addition there were 3 further Sunday walks and 36 midweek walks. With there being 3 walks run concurrently on Saturday 6th September to celebrate the 30th anniversary of London Group's foundation this makes a total of 92 walks of which 89 were solely London Group walks and 3 were joint walks with neighbouring groups.

Your Walks Secretary completed the highest number of walks at 51 (which totalled 931 miles) followed by Emma Dowling at 39 (722 miles). Our Chair, Adrian Waters and Mari Espinar completed the list of top five attendees.

A total of 8 members completed 30 or more walks.

The 2025 LDWA 100-mile challenge walk was held in Suffolk. 16 London Group members entered the "The Flower of Suffolk" event and all were able to finish, many of these cheered on by the Chair who remained at the finish line until the end. So far 20 London members have entered the 2026 event, The Hunnypot Hundred, which will take place in Kent over the weekend Saturday 23rd to Monday 25th May.

The main event in the London Group calendar is the ever-popular Capital Challenge. This year it will take place on Saturday 28th March from Waterloo. Thanks are due to Andrew Disley who stepped up to organise this event.

Other notable walks planned for 2026 are Gavin's 30 plus mile Midsummer on the Downs Challenge on Saturday 4th July and The Camino de Eleanor over the bank holiday Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th April which will be Catherine Gregory's debut as a London Group walk leader.

Hoping for another year full of enjoyable walking,

Keith Mills Walks Secretary