

Challenge Walks: the future

Capital Challenge 2019

It is fully subscribed. The 200th person registered on 1 January and currently 44 people are on a waiting list. There is a new starting place – the crypt of St John's Church, Waterloo. Three more marshals are needed.

Thanks to Douglas Robinson for sorting out checkpoints; to Pete Colley and Douglas for sorting out St John's Church as the new starting place; and to Jean for coordinating.

Capital Challenge: future routes

There are three new routes under development thanks to hard work by Susanne and others. Routes 1 and 2 are nearly ready with the writing of route descriptions planned around Easter. Both Routes start on the South Bank and finish around Crystal Palace Park; otherwise they are completely different.

Route 1 makes extensive use of existing trails (Thames Path, Green Chain and Capital Ring) and is mainly south London. It's about 27 miles. At present there are major developments along parts of the route such that diversions are necessary. This is especially true along the Thames Path at Enderby Wharf between Greenwich and the Dome. The diversion is long, unattractive and poorly signed such that it would not be suitable for a challenge walk while the diversions are in place.

Route 2 is a much more homemade route, evenly divided on both sides of River Thames, with contributions from Susanne, Jean and Ron. It's about 23 miles. It heads towards Battersea Bridge and includes Clapham Common, Brockwell Park, Dulwich Park, and Crystal Palace Park; ending in Penge.

Four pop-up walks, each covering half of each route, are planned for the summer to dry run the route descriptions and give members the opportunity to make constructive suggestions.

Founders' Challenge: new route for 2019

The idea behind this proposal is to refresh the event by making it more accessible to users of public transport and renewing the route, while maintaining its connection with key places in the LDWA's history.

The start and finish will be at St Catherine's Village Hall, Chestnut Avenue, off Portsmouth Road, Guildford. It is approximately 1 mile from Guildford Station by a route much of which is on a riverside path. The route from St. Catherine's takes walkers quickly into the countryside.

There are two routes: the longer one is 30.7 miles with 4065m ascent, 100ft less than the current route. The shorter route is expected to be about 19 miles. In contrast to the current routes they will be walked anti-clockwise while staying quite close to the current route for much of their length. Both routes visit Pitch Hill and Peaslake; the longer route visits Steers Field, Tanners Hatch YH and Blatchford Down. Checkpoints would be at Peaslake Village Hall, Tanners Hatch YH (30m route only) and Shere Village Hall.

Many thanks to Gordon Parker and Tony Cartwright for their work planning the new routes.