

LDWA London Secretary's Report to AGM 2022

Membership

	2019	2021
Primary members	501	505
Associates	557	584
Total	1058	1089

Of our current total of 1089, 910 receive the weekly email – Barry's Blather. This is important as receiving regular information encourages them to be active members of the club. We are one of very few branches who send out a weekly newsletter.

Turning to our ability to retain members, between the end of 2019 and the end of 2021, we have lost 136 primary members and 141 Associate members. Put another way, 27.15% of Primary members in the group at the end of 2019 are either no longer in the group or have switched to associate membership. Offsetting this, we have gained 140 new Primary members and 168 new Associate members.

Position over the AGM in 2021

As you will remember, we had been in lockdown since March 2020 and very few activities had been able to take place. This, in turn, made it difficult to canvas for members to take over the roles where committee members were due to step down. I sought advice from the then Chair of the NEC, Dave Morgan. He replied

'The NEC provided LGs with discretion over whether to have AGMs in 2020 by amending the bylaws. If there had been no AGM some members would have continued in post beyond their tenure in any case.'

Your committee acted on this advice. We wrote to all members stating that, as some recompense, we would arrange a social once this was allowable within the health regulations. This took place on 11th August 2021.

Another earlier notable event over and above our usual walking programme took place on 12th September 2020. This celebrated the 25th anniversary of our founding. Colin Saunders masterminded it and he also organized last year's walk to the Founders' Tree which took place on 9th October. Thank you Colin and thank you to the walk leaders who helped enable these events.

This year we are contributing to the Association-wide celebration of the LDWA's 50th anniversary. Gavin Fuller has kindly agreed to run two walks. One, a 50 miler, will take place on 18th June and the second on Sunday 19th will be a walk taking in 50 London squares.

We have been working reasonably successfully to hold things together over this difficult period but now, as we expand our programme, we would so welcome members coming forward, in particular to lead walks. This is a very rewarding activity. We are working on a training and support programme. Our aim is that you won't be left on your own until you feel ready.