

London LDWA 2024 Walk Secretary's Report

2024 was a busy year for the London Group of the Long Distance Walking Association with a total of 96 walks (90 London Group and 6 joint walks). Every weekend had at least one walk offered and there were 43 midweek walks.

The majority of walks were held on Saturdays and these tended to be the longest averaging 20.32 miles.

A total of 267 people attended our walks with two members completing more than 50 of them. The most miles completed by an individual member was 1,246 miles over 74 social walks.

The backbone of our organisation are the walk leaders without whom no walks could take place. Thank you to everybody who led a walk in 2024. The following led 5 or more walks and deserve a particular mention. Jerome Ripp (27), Gavin Fuller (18), Ron Williamson (12), Lonica Vanclay (6) and Emma Dowling (5).

Four members led their first walks in 2024. Joyce Glasser, Jim Robinson, your Walk Secretary and Emma Dowling (who went on to lead a total of five including themed walks at Halloween and Christmas).

It is very important for the future of our walking group that new walk leaders emerge so if you have the slightest inclination to lead your first walk please contact me. It's not as daunting as you might imagine and some even enjoy the experience. Also, please encourage anybody who is considering being a walk leader for the first time.

Many members consider The Capital Challenge to be the highlight of the London LDWA calendar. This year the eighth Capital Challenge set off from Waterloo on Saturday 6th April on the 28-mile route around London. It is always a very popular event attracting walkers from far and wide.

Other notable events include

A four day walk from Kingston-upon-Thames to Kingston-by-Sea in West Sussex during the Easter weekend.

The Shipwrights Way from Bentley to Portsmouth over the early May Bank Holiday weekend.

Midsummer Over Thames from Woolwich to Kingston which crossed the river at every opportunity using both foot tunnels and all 26 pedestrian bridges. 6 walkers did full 40.5 miles and 2 missed out Woolwich Tunnel joining at Greenwich Tunnel to complete 34.5 miles.

Midsummer on the Downs when 8 walkers completed a 32.2 mile circular walk from Hassocks.

A series of 6 walks from February to September following The Elizabeth Line from Reading to Shenfield.

Here's hoping for another year filled with great walks.
Keith Mills Walk Secretary.