

NORTHUMBRIA GROUP LDWA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
15TH JANUARY 2022
KINGS HEAD HOTEL ALLENDALE TOWN

Present

Dave Clifton, Chair. Bill Milbourne Secretary. Gordon Barrass, Treasurer. Paul Nellist , Walks Secretary

Rachel Musgrove, Michelle Orton, Stephen Foster, Lyndsey Foster, Mary McEwan, John Scott, Roy Coltman, Peter Ford, Paul Ashman, Len Fallick, Sid Astbury, Ian Hislop, Gary Robson, Ian Ramsay

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The last AGM was on 18th January 2020 and the minutes were on the Group Website. No AGM had been held in 2021 because of the Covid situation

The Minutes were adopted unopposed

Chairman's report

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the LDWA so events are being held throughout the Country to celebrate Northumbria Group will be organising a series of Linear Walks from Durham Cathedral to Holy Island on the Way of Light

Dave reminded the meeting that the previous Walks Secretary, Jackie Ritchie, had resigned in June 2021 and had been replaced by Paul Nellist after an on-line election. Dave thanked Jackie for all the work she had done for the Group both a walks Secretary and in organising The Durham Dales Challenge and the Hadrian Hundred

He mentioned that we have also lost another Jackie, Jackie Stephenson, who has moved to Edinburgh along with her faithful companion Leo the dog.

Dave also thanked Peter Ford for organising the walk today

Treasurers Report

The accounts for 2020 and 2021 were on the website

Gordon reported that the Group currently had a balance of £5090.83 but that included 115 entries for the 2022 Durham Dales Challenge

Walk Secretary Report

- As agreed at the last AGM, Social Walks are no longer listed in Strider. They appear on our website and members are notified by email
- There have been 20 different Walk Leaders since Paul took over as Walk Secretary in July
- Graham Jones set up a walks database on our website a few years ago and this has now been adopted by the National Team. The listing includes a description, a Gpx file, and some photographs of what you can expect to see on the route. It includes Group Social Walks as well as walks done by Members (particularly Len Fallick) and is searchable by map and by location

- The Group has joined a trial of “Meetup” to publicise social walks and the activities of the LDWA. The Northumbria Meetup Group now has over 100 members and we have been joined by 6 people on our Social Walks in 2022. The cost is being met from the National publicity budget
- There is also a WhatsApp group to arrange lifts and reccee walks (If anyone wants to join this group you need to contact Paul)
- As mentioned at the last AGM, we need to compile a register of attendees on Social walks for insurance purposes. To save time and effort, Paul has been doing this himself rather than have everyone sign a register. Unfortunately this has meant that the two caveats on the bottom of the sheet have not been agreed to by participants. The issues of dogs being covered by insurance and people giving consent to photographs were both raised at the last AGM
In future all walk descriptions and invitations will contain a reminder that all dogs must be covered by third party liability insurance, if they are allowed on walks and no-one should post any photograph on Social media or anywhere else if anyone in the picture can be identified unless that person has given their consent. Anyone who poses for a photograph, particularly a group photograph, is assumed to give consent to that photograph being published on social media or used for any other purpose by the LDWA and the photographer
- LDWA Anniversary celebrations. The first two Pilgrimage of Light Walks will be on 26th February and 26th March. There will be a coach to take walkers from the finish to the start so we will need to know how many people want to take part at least a week in advance.

Secretary Report

Bill advised that, subject to ratification at the National AGM in March, he had been nominated to Act as National Secretary

Bill reported on the outcome of the Groups Representatives weekend held in Howarth on 13th and 14th November

- Progress on replacing the website
- The decision not to apply for Charitable Status as the loss of financial independence for Local Groups outweighed any other possible advantages
- New Volunteering opportunities at National Level
- The updated Safeguarding Policy
- Possible future campaigning on Environmental and other issues relevant to the Association
- Insurance update. Members now have personal injury insurance cover while acting as walk leaders or sweepers as well as while recceing proposed walks (including travelling to and from walks)

Election of Officers

All of the Group Officers advised that they were available for re-election. No other nominations had been received so the Committee was re-elected unopposed

Durham Dales Challenge

Bill reminded the meeting that the Durham Dales Challenge was due to take place on 18th June. This is the day that the LDWA will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary as well as it being the 40th Durham Dales. The description has been changed to a nominal 50Km to reflect this, although the route remains unchanged.

This event is the Group's only Fundraiser and raises money

The following roles need to be filled

- Checkpoint manager to liaise with Middleton Village Hall and Wolsingham Masonic Hall
- Catering Manager to Provide food for Eudon Beck, Middleton, Bollihope and the finish
- Volunteer coordinator
- Liaison with Forestry Commission
- Liason with DCC Safety Advisory Group
- Supply of Commemorative T-shirts to all finishers

In addition to this, we have been asked to vacate the premises where the equipment is stored. Alternative storage has been arranged for a lot of equipment in Wolsingham but access is restricted so we need to find somewhere to keep the tents and the gas cookers and gas bottles

Ian Ramsay volunteered to liaise with the Masonic Hall and Gary Robson agreed to arrange things at Middleton in Teesdale