

NORTHUMBRIA GROUP LDWA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

13TH JANUARY 2024

Ridley Arms, Stannington

Present

Dave Clifton, Chair, Paul Nellist, Walks Secretary, Gordon Barrass, Treasurer, Peter Ford Group Secretary.

Jim Arden, Paul Ashman, Lesley Bellis, Geoff Buckley, Kevin Bullock, Julie Carolan, Roy Coltman, Brid Crowley, Dawn Douglas, Len Fallick, James Francis, Lee Francis, Stephen Gunnion, Ian Hislop, Nick Hooper, Gilly Humphrey, Sally and Steven Lee, Neil Mansfield, Catherine Meek, Rachael Musgrove, Claudio De Natale, Michelle Orton, Ian Ramsay, Gary and Vicki Robson, Adrian and Susie Romain- Wade, John Scott, Ricky Scott, Barbara Stephens, David Thompson, Diana Thurston, Phil Urwin, Dennis Walker, Derek Widdowfield.

Apologies for absence

Anja Huskens (returned to NZ), Jackie Stevenson, Donna Mc Bride, Steve Foster, Juliet Percival Sue Nutall, and Alex Harris.

Minutes of last AGM

The minutes of the last AGM on 14 January 2023, were circulated, and adopted unopposed by Bill Milbourne proposer and Jim Arden seconder.

Chairmans Report

DC, extended thanks to Paul Nellist for leading and organizing the walk, which was one of Ian Millican's, though the degree of mud was a new experience. Paul and Peter Ford were thanked for staging the AGM.

DC reflected on the year and gave thanks to all leaders, walkers for the time expended on recce's, all very much appreciated. DC would like to have been on more walks, but family and his own health problems are proving a challenge.

Compliments were paid to good turn outs and a varied walks programme.

Thanks were also expressed to those helping on our sole fundraiser, the DDC which had been very successful, a separate committee, administered the organization with DC as "organizer supremo" Some changes will occur for 2024, including car parking with discussions regarding charging taking place with Crook/Durham Council and a catering review.

DC moved onto the Chairmans awards which were given to the following:

Julie Carolan - Most enjoyable walk “for its sheer beauty and varied terrain”

Peter Ford - Historic walk finish including Flodden Field

Annette Pantall – Navigator of the year – lovely walk with just a map and compass.

Treasurer’s Report

The accounts for 2023 were circulated and reviewed by Gordon Barrass, Treasurer, the year end being 30 November with a surplus of £3,468.07, the Durham Dales Challenge giving a surplus within this figure of £2,198.18.

Gordon detailed the separate account for payments from the Martyn Greaves Legacy, which Paul Nellist would detail in the walk’s secretaries report. The overall legacy being £115,000 to the LDWA for all 43 Groups to apply for with a business case for funding on projects.

PF queried the take by SI entries for administering the DDC entries which is 3 %.

A discussion ensued regarding the requirement for two-person authorization of transactions, further guidance with HSBC was required, given most transactions are by electronic transfer. It was agreed a new process will be determined separately at a committee meeting.

The accounts for 2022/02023 were adopted unopposed.

Walk Secretaries report.

Paul Nellist gave an overview of the Local Groups Weekend in Dorchester, with figures on membership and those doing social walks and challenge walks, Northumbria Group now have 271 members. Whilst an 8-hour car journey and no formal communications from the NEC, it was worth going and funding is done centrally, so no Group cost involved.

Paul then explained our commitment to supporting Isaac’s Tea Trail through the Martyn Greaves fund, working with Roger Morris the founder and focal point for promoting and maintaining the trail. Monies had already been expended on a new publication leaflet, the application for funding included Cumbrian monies, the route passing through both group areas. It was emphasised that the promotion of the route was to increase the profile of the LDWA.

Paul mentioned the rich variety of walks we and welcomed more and recce’s whatever weekday suited. Group social walks would continue to be mainly fortnightly and would remain advertised on our web site.

Cleveland Group had latterly reformed, and members were encouraged to check out their walks programme.

John Scott wanted to emphasise the pace of walks and cited an incident on his Rothbury led walk on 6 January 2024 in which a guest encountered issues which led to the Group being fragmented, with people going at a fast pace seemingly oblivious to the rear of the Group. PF emphasised that the incident had been well handled and a report had been done into the medical issue that arose and that guidelines had been followed.

It was worth minuting however, that social walks are designed to be a maximum of 2.5 miles per hour and all are welcome and should be accommodated.

Alex Harris unable to attend, had motioned in advance, that walkers should park more considerably particularly in small villages where parking was a premium. Car sharing being an obvious consideration and potentially the use of Stannington Village Hall car park for a meet up when travelling north.

Paul mentioned the allocation of a checkpoint for the Flower of Suffolk Hundred in 2025. Bill Milbourne had volunteered the Group to help at Checkpoint 14, a distance of 86 miles at Shottisham Hall, near Aldbrough, the booking is provisional at this stage.

Election of Officers

No nominees for election were received, all existing incumbents agreed to stand for re-election, the “officers” were duly reelected, proposed by Geoff Buckley and seconded by Jim Arden.

AOB

Group Secretary Peter Ford had a few points to discuss and seek members approval.

1. Support by the Group to assist with the possible resurrection of the Wensleydale Wedge challenge walk in November and The Smugglers Trod for 2025, the last of which had been advertised as this August.

Members agreed to support, and PF would take this forward to the Events Co-Ordinator Chris Burrell and individual groups.

2. Proposal of quarterly meetings at The Ridley Arms, for committee and social events, such as slide shows on interesting walk related topics, the members were happy with this, timing and dates to be explored.
3. Speyside 100 checkpoint manning, Sally Lee agreed to be the lead and organise a rota, volunteers already received with a further reminder required. Committee to view the rota to ensure organisation over an 18-hour time frame at Avie Checkpoint on 25-29th May 2024.

A review by the Committee of the year end and possible move of AGM to be considered.

DDC would have a separate committee again.

Bill Milbourne updated matters being considered by NEC – an IT Officer, LDP App, for path recording, Navigational and Safeguarding courses and the cost of Striders to members at £50,000, with a view to considering the paperless version.

Bill proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee.

DC closed the AGM @ 4.40 PM.

A raffle followed.

P M Ford 29 January 2024.

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Group Secretary