

WEST LANC'S LDWA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Sea View starting at 7.00pm
Monday 21st November





WEST LANCASHIRE GROUP AGM 2022

Monday 21st November

At

Sea View

Agenda

- 7.00pm Hot Pot
- 7.45pm Chair opens meeting

AGM BUSINESS AGENDA

- Approve the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
- Receive the Annual Report of the Committee.
- Receive the Annual Statement of Accounts.
- Elect the Officers and Ordinary Members of the Committee.
- Appoint an independent examiner of the financial accounts.
- Discuss and consider any properly submitted motion.
- AOB

LDWA WEST LANCASHIRE GROUP

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the LDWA West Lancs Group held on 15.11.2021 at the Sea View

Meeting opened 19.30 hrs

Members Present 18 (23 last year on Zoom)

	Apologies: At 19:30 Chair, Neil, welcomed all members. John Clarke opened the meeting with a poem he had written about local landmarks. Hot Pot was served. Apologies received: Margaret and Bob, Peter and Sue, Stan and Shirley, Pat, John Flanagan, Dave and Sheila, Kate and Mike	ACTION
1	<p>Approve the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>Minutes of the 2020 AGM, which had been sent to members, were passed as a true record.</p> <p>Actions from the previous submitted motions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was agreed to plan the Committee meetings to coincide with the group meetings, which were to be held every other month. Meetings to follow a format of slide shows and talks. This was to be trialled for 12 months. Due to COVID the initial meetings were held by Zoom. Action: Future group meetings and Committee dates to be decided. Neil suggested a Committee meeting in January 2022 to formulate dates. Previous agreements have suggested that committee meetings and groups meetings be held on the same night, to reduce travel and time. (David). There has been a previous agreement to hold two open committee meetings with members present for transparency and discussion. It was agreed that whatever format, there would be 15 minutes allocated to members time at the end of the meeting, if there has been a speaker/slideshow. (John Evenden had submitted this as a motion for the last AGM) 2. Walks Register, it was agreed to complete these for every walk, however, following later guidance from central office, our interpretation of procedures was that they were no longer a requirement, so we ceased completing registers in October 2019. Neil explained that when the group does start to walk again, walk registers and risk assessments must be completed for every walk. Andy agreed to co-ordinate this. Action: walk registers are still a requirement, risk assessments are not, unless there is a challenge event. Walk registers to be completed and sent to Andy Webster. As a note, it would be good practice to gain a periodic update from Andy as to how this is going. 3. It was suggested and agreed that the financial year would end at the end of December. Unfortunately, due to COVID this did not materialise. Action: It was decided that the financial year would be finalised at the end of September each year. 4. Stan had asked in AOB at the AGM in 2019 that the Club spend funds on a separate social occasion, not necessarily linked to a walk. Action: With COVID this has not been possible. However, this can stay as an action for the future. 	CARRIED

	<p>5. AOB 2019, a request from a member for a Peak and Northern Footpath sign, to be placed somewhere on the Amble route. Cost is £375.00. plus materials. This request is on hold at present.</p> <p>Proposed by Glyn Seconded by John E</p>	
2	<p>Annual Reports of the Committee</p> <p>The Chairman's, Secretary's, Challenge Walks Organiser's & Walks Secretary's reports were circulated to members prior to the meeting for their perusal and comments.</p> <p>The Chair, the Secretary, Challenge Walks Organiser & Walks Secretary briefly went through their reports.</p> <p>Chair's report: Summary – Neil commented that he had been Chair of the Group for two and a half years. This is an extract from his report.</p> <p>‘We began a walks programme in April of this year after a gap of 13 months. Since then, we have put on 32 walks across the North West of varying distances and degrees of difficulty. Not unsurprisingly the attendance on these walks is down compared with 2019. To some extent this was inevitable with the booking system and limitations upon numbers. However, I am pleased to say we have now moved another step forward allowing leaders to dispense with this if they feel comfortable with this.</p> <p>During the height of the Covid pandemic we continued with Group Meetings online via Zoom and I hope this gave the opportunity to keep in touch particularly during periods of lockdown. I am even more pleased to report that we had our first physical group meeting at the Sea View in October, our AGM in November is to be also held at the Sea View in person and we have booked a Christmas Meal at Whalley Golf Club in December to follow the traditional Pudding Plod walk. All are important steps back to normality.</p> <p>I would particularly like to thank all members of the Committee for their hard work and support during the past difficult year. It has not been easy, having to meet online, and having to digest and react to the many changes in regulations that have been issued, often at short notice, and then determining how our Group should apply these. Inevitably there is a wide range of opinions in the face of such a disease as Covid, but I feel, and I hope you agree, we managed to steer a sensible and practical course through this.</p> <p>So, lets now look to the future!</p> <p>The continued success of the Group will be primarily down to the quality of the walks programme, and we must continue to review this and learn and ensure that we meet as many of our member's needs as possible.</p> <p>At the beginning of 2020 I was ready to implement my first initiative as Chair, which was to expand the programme to include a Thursday walk for the main parts of the year. These walks would be aimed at those who wanted longer distance or more challenging walks. These would complement the existing Tuesday Social Walks and the Strider walks programme. Obviously, this never happened.</p> <p>At the recent Group meeting we discussed this and decided that the programme in 2022 should be as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Walks on Tuesdays of up to 12 miles. Once a month this would be of a longer distance. 	

- Two Thursday each month there would be longer and more challenging walks from March to October. This would include our traditional long distance walk (or two) over consecutive Thursdays.
- There would be two weekend walks per month on Saturdays or Sundays, depending upon the leader's preference, and one would be below 15 miles to cater for those who could not attend the Tuesday social walks

I hope now that as a result there is more choice for each member, and we will see how this works out in practice and develop and adapt the walks programme for 2023 accordingly.

The depth of this walks programme is down to efforts of many people, but in particular to Jane Anthony and Dave Whittaker, who have the considerable task of cajoling people into leading and organising all the many walks. We should never underestimate the importance of their work and the considerable amount of time involved. Secondly, I thank our many leaders, who willing volunteer time and time again and take on the responsibility of ensuring that we enjoy our walks and complete them safely. Can I please call upon all members, new and old, to ensure that they are doing their fair share of leading?’

Neil commented he had attended the Local Group Meeting along with 17 other groups. It was good to meet and share ideas with other groups. It was good to see that the LDWA is an organisation full of dedicated individuals. Some of the issues discussed were:

The role of the NEC and in particular their duty of care to members, which resulted in policies that were not always welcomed but necessary. Neil felt he needs to be more supportive of the NEC and to take more interest and provide a bridge to our group.

Long Distance paths and the LDWA being the custodian of the register and how to make it more valuable.

How to record a data base for GPX routes – training will hopefully be provided by the LDWA.

50th Anniversary programme -see below.

IT Programme linked to funding and reserves policy, the LDWA had talked about the Charity Status being ‘too complicated’ to move this forward.

Inclusion and Diversity – Neil presented the NEC document on this picking up on some of the main action points such as

The importance of the welcome letter to new members, a buddying system, offering slower paced walks. Using public transport for the occasional walk. Combining walks with other groups, like East Lancs. No one present add any objections to shared walks with East Lancs so Neil said he would go forward with this.

Neil, reflected that having spoken to different groups he felt that West Lancs was a good group with a strong Committee.

Neil confirmed that if anyone had something they wanted to discuss, to talk on a walk with himself or any other member of the Committee.

‘Finally, a large thank you to all members for your support in maintaining a strong Group during a difficult period and I wish you all the best of walking for the coming year.’

Secretary's report: Update: The 50th Anniversary cookbook, recipes had been submitted from Marilyn Crook and Margaret Burford. The emergency tags are ordered, awaiting delivery for those who have requested one.

Karen had brought some old badges from West Lancs Challenge walks, and asked members how the current ‘badge’ had been agreed, as it was very old fashioned. Some discussion took place.

Doreen suggested it could be replaced by a Red Rose emblem.

Action: To bring this to the next Committee meeting

	<p>Equipment Officer's report: Apologies from Mike, however all the equipment is in order.</p> <p>Challenge Walk Organiser: Ian gave an update on the LDWA challenge event guidance which, understandably, still focuses on how to organize Covid safe events. It turns out that our main issue is the size of the small school hall which makes it almost impossible to provide food in a Covid safe environment. Ian has been looking into this for some time now and has had conversations with the owners of the Rivington Village Green Tea Room about providing food at the finish and they have come up with providing home made soup, plus crusty rolls and a cup of tea or coffee for £4.75pp. Ian asked the group to approve this, which they did.</p> <p>Walks Organiser's report: David's report was again self-explanatory. Attendees on all walks up to the AGM have been slighter lower than pre-Covid. A full programme is on the web site.</p>							
3	<p>Annual Statement of Accounts The annual statement of accounts was circulated to members prior to the meeting for their perusal.</p> <p>FUNDS at 30.9.21</p> <table> <tr> <td>Savings Account</td> <td>£4,109.92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current Account</td> <td>£3,596.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>£7,706.56</td> </tr> </table> <p>Down £416 in the year.</p> <p>Jaqui explained that the accounts had been 'in hibernation' in lock down. The major expense carried from the last AGM was a donation of £600.00 for the NEC IT fund plus there was £278 of day to day expenses in the year. We had received £462 in advance for the 2022 Amble to offset some of this.</p> <p>Outstanding expenditure will be the emergency tags, which are on order and will cost £3.00 per tag plus VAT.</p> <p>The statement of accounts had been approved by Peter Lomax.</p> <p>For completeness, the accounts were proposed by Ian and seconded by Jane</p>	Savings Account	£4,109.92	Current Account	£3,596.64	TOTAL	£7,706.56	
Savings Account	£4,109.92							
Current Account	£3,596.64							
TOTAL	£7,706.56							
4	<p>Appoint an independent examiner of the financial accounts Peter Lomax would be asked to act as independent examiner of the financial accounts for 2020/21 Proposed by Jaqui Seconded by Neil</p>	CARRIED						
5	<p>Discuss and consider any properly submitted motion There were no submitted motions</p>							
6	<p><u>Election of committee</u></p>							

As there was no further business the formal meeting closed.
Neil thanked everyone for their attendance and then invited everyone for a presentation on a potential 'loop' walk from the best scenery of the Lancashire Way to celebrate the 50th Anniversary, culminating in a Jacob's join, possibly at Hurst Green Community centre on Sunday 19th June.
(Action: it was agreed to book this)

Format would be 50 miles over 4 days. 3 Tuesdays and 1 Sunday.

Day 1 13.5 miles 31st May

Hurst Green, Dinkley, Whalley, Nick of Pendle, Pendle Hill and Downham

Day 2 13miles 7th June

Downham to Newton in Bowland

Day 3 10.5 miles 14th June

Dunsop Bridge to Chipping

Day 4 19th June 13 miles

Chipping to Hurst Green

Neil thanked everyone for their interest and the meeting formally closed.

Annual Report of the Committee

Chairman's Report

I have now been the Chair of the Group for three and a half years and I am pleased to say that the last year has been somewhat easier than the previous two, which had to contend with the Covid Pandemic. We are now, dare I say it, back to normal, with no restrictions upon numbers, no booking system, no social distancing, no risk assessments and hopefully it will stay like this!

Since the last AGM in November 2021, we have had a well attended Christmas Meal at Whalley Golf Club in December after the traditional Pudding Plod walk and a number of other in person social events. My personal highlight was the 50th Anniversary Celebration in June of this year. This consisted of a 50 Mile Lancashire Way Walk covered over four separate days with the final day as part of the Big Walk weekend followed by a social gathering at the Bailey Arms in Hurst Green. There were around 40 members who attended this including both old and new and a number of members who can no longer walk with us. In addition, seven of us completed the 50 miles in one single walk on the Saturday in the spirit of long distance walking.

Probably the most important event of the past year was the resumption of our own "flagship" Challenge Event, the Anglezarke Amble in February. Some fundamental changes were made to how the event was run including outsourcing most of the catering but these all went down well and will probably be continued next year. The event was fully booked although on the day there were a large numbers of no shows. Those that did take part gave great feedback and I can declare the event was a great success providing important funds to support the group over the year and make valuable donations to good causes. My thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the event and of course to Ian and Karen for the many hours they give to organise this.

Every year I state that the continued success of the Group will be primarily down to the quality of the walks programme, and we must continue to review this and learn and ensure that we meet as many of our member's needs as possible. I have always been keen to expand the options available to members, rather than just the Tuesday walks and last year we decided that the programme in 2022 should be as follows

- Social Walks on Tuesdays of up to 12 miles. Once a month this would be of a longer distance.
- Two Thursday each month there would be longer and more challenging walks from March to October. This would include our traditional long distance walk (or two) over consecutive Thursdays.
- There would be two weekend walks per month on Saturdays or Sundays, depending upon the leader's preference, and one would be below 15 miles to cater for those who could not attend the Tuesday social walks

Having now completed most of 2022, I can report that the Tuesday walks remain as popular as ever albeit slightly down on pre covid numbers. There were a number of Thursday walks in the earlier part of the year but these were generally poorly attended and have therefore been quietly dropped from the programme. I am not exactly sure why they were not popular but I believe it is mainly down to the length of these walks i.e. too long and the fact that these were mid-week. Weekend walks have been better attended, although generally only around 10 walkers, which is again similar to pre covid times. I

remain very keen that we continue with the longer weekend walks as these provide an outlet for the those who still work and those who prefer more challenging walks.

The depth of this walks programme is down to efforts of many people, but in particular to Jane Anthony and Dave Whittaker, who have the considerable task of cajoling people into leading and organising all the many walks. We should never underestimate the importance of their work and the considerable amount of time involved. Secondly, I thank our many leaders, who willing volunteer time and take on the responsibility of putting together and ensuring that we enjoy our walks and complete them safely. Can I please call upon all members, new and old, to ensure that they are doing their fair share of leading?

As always I would like to thank all members of the Committee for their hard work and support during the past year. In particular, I would like to thank Jaqui in her role of treasurer over the last 10 years and who has finally decided to step down. Ann Holden has volunteered to take up the role going forward. Also, can we please thank Glyn who is also stepping down after five years on the Committee. It is important that the Committee remains strong and dynamic ensuring that it continues to provide both the direction and stewardship of the Group. I believe that it is important that the committee remains fresh and so ask for volunteers to come forward to help in the running the Group. At the next AGM I will have been Chair for four and a half years and feel that would be a good time to step down and let someone else take up the role. We will therefore be searching for someone over the next year who wants to take over and provide the enthusiasm that is needed in this role to ensure that the group remains strong over the next few years.

We must never forget that the West Lancs Group is part of the Long Distance Walkers Association and it is important that we provide support to the members of the NEC, who volunteer hours of their time to ensure that the organisation remains viable and indeed strong. There are many competing activities and distractions to us all and we need to work together to ensure that the association continues to be relevant. One initiative that I have been keen to support is the development of the LDWA website and walks database. Having a professional, modern and informative website is key for both keeping members informed and to attract new members. Thank you for all those who provide the many words and photos of content including GPX files. These all contribute to this aim.

Finally, a large thank you to all members for your support in maintaining a strong Group during the last year and I wish you all the best of walking for the coming year.

Neil Harwood

Chair – West Lancs LDWA

November 2022

Secretary's Report

Membership

To date we have 574 Members made up of 250 Primary members and 324 Associate members.

36 New Primary members have joined this year.

It is hoped that the website provides all the information members need. I have talked to some new faces on walks and received positive feedback, that the walk programme provides interest and something for everyone.

Looking to the Spring/Summer 2023, it is hoped to offer a longer series of day walks and this is something that will be put to members next year to gauge interest.

It is that time of year to say thank you for everyone who has helped on the Amble, lead walks, painted the Trig point and generally supported the Club.

There are some special 'thank you's' to Jaqui, as she bids freedom from her Treasurer role. Glyn from organising social events, although he is still in charge of this year's meal at Whalley Golf club. Peter Lomax is also stepping down as the Club's financial auditor.

For those who read Strider (!) you will notice that in Green Matters (April 2022) that the LDWA is working towards being 'carbon neutral'. You will be pleased to know that walking emits negligible carbon! However, there are several ideas which the NEC would like all Clubs to consider and record. West Lancs could consider being more pro active in car sharing to walks. Also, to consider organising some walks that are available by public transport.

Finally. I am aware that 2022 has been a tough year for some of our members and their families.

As a Club it is important to recognise the contribution older members have made to the success of West Lancs. Neil and Glyn have organised events where non walking members can still socialise with us and I would like to organise a similar event next year. Post Amble it will be time to be thinking of group meetings/social events and I would be pleased to receive any ideas.

I will continue to be pro-active, along with other Committee members, in seeking your views and ideas on walks on a variety of topics, watch this space....

In the meantime, happy walking.

Karen

Secretary

Equipment Officer Report

Mike will present on the night.

Challenge Walks Organiser Report

ANGLEZARKE AMBLE REPORT

1. Weather

Very good. Mild with light rain late in the day.

2. Summary of figures

- There were 325 entrants this year 318 SiEntries and 7 on the day (373 last event) broken down as follows.
- Starters on long route 162 (234 last time)
- Starters on short route 49 (74 last time)
- Total 211 (Last time 308)
- Nonstarters 114 (65 last time)
- Runners 153 (138 last time)
- None LDWA members 206 (211 last time)

The greater than usual nonstarter numbers can only be put down to the very bad weather forecasted for the day.

4. Event review

This year we had 37 (46 last year) helpers on the day who all did an excellent job.

The hall setup was changed so that a one-way system could be used. Entrants came in through the fire escape door at the back of the hall where the collect number table was positioned. Once numbers had been collected entrants were then able to sign in at any of three tables positioned at the back of the hall. Entrants were then able to collect tea, coffee, and toast at the hatch before leaving the hall via the front door.

This new system had been brought in to comply with covid guidance, but it worked so well that **I propose to continue with this set up.**

Checkpoints were well managed as was the kitchen and the feedback has been very positive about standard and quality of refreshments provided. A big thank you must go to Gaynor and John as this was their first event. As well as Glyn and Julie.

No refreshments were provided at White Coppice this year and as there were only two negative comments about this change, **I propose that this change continue in the future.**

The Winter Hill checkpoint was moved to Pike Cottage this year with no problems identified.

I propose that this change continue in the future.

This year we outsourced the catering to Rivington Village Green Tea Rooms who provided soup with a bread roll and a hot drink. There has been very positive feedback on the quality of food and service provided. The hall kitchen layout has been changed since we last used it reducing the working and surface space available.

Outsourcing the catering significantly reduces the workload on us so **I propose to do the same next year.**

Both Mountain Rescue and Raynet were invaluable again.

Entry charge was £10.00 for LDWA members £13.00 for non LDWA and these charges will stand for next year's event, but should this be reviewed for 2024?

£32 of badges sold and £52.20 collected for mountain rescue.

4.1 Booking / checking in and certificates

The new booking in (including welcome table) system was managed very well with no issues.

The new checking in also worked well with the new table layout, number, time on name sheet and certificate. Not having to search for the individuals named certificate made everything much easier. Entrants added their own name in their own time. **No complaints so we will continue to use this system.**

4.2 Tallies

Bob has replaced numbers **6, 56, 81, 128, 133, 144 and 325**

4.3 Equipment

Hall and Checkpoint equipment lists will be checked and updated by Mike.

Action: Mike Motley

Hall Food/ refreshments

A hot drink with toast was provided prior to the start of the event which was welcomed by participants. On completion of the event a hot drink with biscuits was made available in the hall. For many, particularly runners, this was all they needed so they were quite happy to go home without any hot food. Consequently only 151 went to the tea rooms for food.

4.5 Other Comments

I would like to thank all those who helped for their commitment to the event, particularly those taking on new responsibilities for the first time.

The Hall, Raynet and Mountain Rescue have been booked for next year's event on **Saturday 11th February 2023**

BARBONDALE ROUND Anytime Challenge

We tried this for the second time this year and there were 16 participants raising £66.80 for Mountain Rescue. Entry was £5.00. All the electronic information needed for this event is still there on SiEntries so there is no reason why we can't run this event every year even if it does attract only small numbers. The work has now been done so there is nothing lost.

Ian Wardle

Challenge Walks Organiser

Walks Secretary Report

West Lancs LDWA – Walk Statistics 1 November 2021 – 31 October 2022 (And previous years)

The first post-lockdown walk since March 2020 was on 27 April 2021. Attendance on walks in the last 12 months has been slightly down compared with 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Tuesday Social Walks

	2014 – 2015	2015 - 2016	2016 – 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020	1.11.21- 31.10.22
Walks	39	41	40	39	37	39	38
Leaders	17	23	31	32	28	31	32
Venues	33	36	32	30	29	32	34
Avg attendance	16	15	18	17	20	18	17

Longer Walks

	2014 – 2015	2015 - 2016	2016 – 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019-2020	1.11.21- 31.10.22
Walks	24	22	23	23	21	22	22
Leaders	10	13	16	19	16	19	18
Avg distance	17	17	16	17	16	16	17
Avg attendance	12	11	13	10	13	12	10

Additional Walks

	2014 – 2015	2015 - 2016	2016 – 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019-2020	
Walks	9	17	13	18	15	7	
Leaders	4	6	6	9	8	6	
Avg distance	16	14	15	15	14	10	
Avg attendance	8	14	15	13	15	18	

50th Anniversary Walks – 31 May to 19 June 2022 4 walks totalling 51 miles with an average of 20 walkers

On 18/19 June 2022 7 walkers did the full 51 miles of the Anniversary Walks

Lancashire Way Eastern Loop – 21 April to 26 May 2022 4 walks totalling 70 miles with an average of 3 walkers.

David Whittaker

Walks Secretary

Annual Statement of Accounts

Item	Credit	Debit	Profit
GENERAL			
Indentitag Ltd		£91.80	
Seaview refreshments x 3		£275.00	
Speaker P. Ashcroft		£40.00	
Whalley Golf Club		£165.00	
Deposit Christmas Meal		£100.00	
Pudding Plod		£28.90	
Hurst Green 50th Anniversary		£50.00	
Bailey Arms 50th Anniversary		£200.00	
Lancashire Way Buses		£355.00	
Stamps		£7.92	
Trig point paint		£27.95	
Donation to seat D.Viney	£100.00		
TOTAL	£100.00	£1,341.57	
ANGLEZARKE AMBLE 2022			
Si Entries	£2,890.57		
Entries on the day	£76.00		
Badges	£32.00		
Rivington Village Hall		£160.00	
Rivington Tea Room		£717.25	
Hall Food		£47.82	
C/P Food		£362.69	
Certificates		£48.00	
String		£11.99	
Van		£20.00	
Diesel		£40.00	
Supplies		£7.75	
Gas		£78.99	
Raynet		£125.00	
TOTAL	£2,998.57	£1,619.49	
ANGLEZARKE AMBLE 2023			
Si Entries	£348.10		
TOTAL	£348.10		

BARBONDALE 2022			
Si Entries	£45.20		
TOTAL	£45.20		
CHARITIES			
Mountain Rescue	£52.20	£500.00	
Air Ambulance		£200.00	
TOTAL	£52.20	£700.00	
ACCOUNT BALANCES			
Savings Account 2021	£4,109.92		
Interest	£0.65		
Total Savings a/c Balance	£4,110.57		
Current Account 2021	£3,596.64		
Credits	£3,544.07		
Total Credits	£7,140.71		
Debits		£3,661.06	
Total Current a/c Balance	£3,479.65		
Statement Balance	£3,554.65		
Less Unpaid Cheque	£75.00		
Total Current a/c Balance	£3,479.65		
FUNDS			
Savings Account	£4,110.57		
Current Account	£3,479.65		
TOTAL	£7,590.22		

Jaqueline Peaks

Treasurer