

**Minutes of West Yorkshire LDWA AGM held on
Saturday 28th September 2024 at 2:30pm at Bingley Little Theatre, Bingley**

In Attendance

Ralph Warman
Chris Burrell
Tim Rollett
Karen Pickersgill
Lesley Peel
Julia Warman
Tom Wood
Roger Mahony
Judi Webster
Randal Metzger
John Pickersgill
Julie Spencer
Ian Hofmann
Zoe Matsell
Adrian Gosling
Madeleine Watson
Abi MacDonald
Helen Hills
Peri Thomas

Apologies

Iain Haigh
Sue Haigh
Steve Hammond
Warren Yabsley
Margaret Bluer
Rose Bennet
Ian Chappel
John Sparshatt

Ralph Warman opened the meeting with an introduction of the existing WY Committee, himself as Chair, Chris Burrell Secretary, Tim Rollett Treasurer, Julia Warman Walks Secretary, Lesley Peel Social Secretary, Tom Wood Web Master, Karen Pickersgill, Roger Mahony, Zoe Matsell, Margaret Bluer, Sue Haigh & Iain Haigh Committee members. Ralph summarised that the AGM would be a reflection of what had happened in the 2023/ 2024, financial year and was looking forward to 2024/2025. Thanks was given to all who had travelled from afar to attend the AGM.

All the relevant reports had been made available to everyone to read in advance of the AGM, and are attached to these minutes.

- **Apologies for Absence**
 - Received – as per above
- **Minutes of Previous AGM – held in 30th September 2023**
 - Passed as a true accurate record
 - Proposer – Judi Webster
 - Seconder – Zoe Matsell
 - Matters Arising –
 1. Hi Viz vests, with WY logos, have been purchased and have been used on challenge events
 2. WY merchandise is now available through Peco [link on the WY website]
 3. Business cards have been handed out to members to hand out, more cards were handed out at the meeting.
- **Chair's Report – Ralph Warman**

As we approach the business end of another successful and enjoyable year fast approaching is the need to start thinking about celebrating our 50th year of existence.

Born in 1976 and attracting a young and competitive membership the group soon acquired an unhealthy reputation for not being accommodating to its own members and also members from other groups. "Don't go with West Yorkshire they are too fast and won't wait for you" was the cry.

Thankfully long gone have those days but the reputation lingered on for many a year.

Today and now for many years we pride ourselves on being an accommodating and caring group and the envy of some of the other groups who are finding it hard to exist. Testimony to this is the amount of members who we attract not just from West Yorkshire but from other neighbouring groups who want to take part in our jam packed and varied social walks programme put together by our walks Secretary Julia Warman and lead by a good number of our dedicated and experienced members.

We are here today to comply with the group's constitution to hold an Annual General Meeting and to receive the annual reports of its committee, produce annual statements of accounts and elect officers and ordinary members of the committee for the forthcoming year.

At last year's AGM the committee was further strengthened to 12 by the addition of 2 ordinary members joining the ranks Zoe Matsell and Margaret Bluer.

I applaud and thank the work of the committee and our non-committee members for their work and commitment during the last 12 months enabling the group to host the One foot in the Gargrave event; commit to HQ and check point duties on the Speyside 100; and committing to our forthcoming events the Cracoe Cracker in October and the Roundhay 50 in February 2025.

The strength of the group is each individual member; and the strength of each member is the group.

The last 12 months of activities demonstrates the strength of the group.

- **Secretary's Report – Chris Burrell**

I opened up last year's secretary report by saying where has the last two years gone, but that doesn't seem that long ago at all, the last 12 months has flown by, and what a year we have had. A big thank you to all members and their friends who have been involved with West Yorkshire LDWA. Whether you have helped on one of the challenge events we have put on, lead a walk, joined in on one or more of the West Yorkshire social walks, or just being a member who enjoys the many benefits of the LDWA.

At last year's AGM we had 15 members and received 7 apologies which isn't many saying we have over 500 members. This is your chance to have your say, have a lovely 12 mile walk and be fed at the end, so please come and join us on the day, you are more than welcome.

Events: - we will have held two challenge events again in 2024, the ever popular One foot in the Gargrave, and the still to happen Cracoe Cracker Challenge, both of these events were/are sold out which is a credit to all who have got involved.

It was great to hear so many kind remarks at CP 3 on how great the One Foot in the Gargrave event was, it just goes to show, if a small band of 20 can be pulled together it gives 200 a great day out!

Social Walks: - again we are very fortunate that we have a good number of walk leaders, who never cease to amaze us on leading walks on many unknown footpaths, In many different locations.

Social Events: - the end of year Christmas Walk/Meal was enjoyed by a good number of members, with a visit from Father Christmas himself and widow Twanky.

Between Christmas and the New Year, Christine and John lead a series of four Bah-Humbug walks which were very popular.

Tim led his annual Hootenanny Walk from Bramhope which attracted 25 walkers.

Over the weekend 14th & 15th Sep 24. 17 members travelled up to Alston for an exchange weekend with the Northumbrian group, walking the Isaacs Tea Trail.

Finance: - Tim keeps a tight control on all things financial, one point to mention is west Yorkshire applied for a grant from the NEC Martin Greaves fund, to research, develop, and publish a revised guide book on the Ebor Way, which I am told is imminent. Many thanks to all those who have helped with this.

Last but not least the Secretary has been kept busy, attending the Local Groups weekend in Dorset, the NEC AGM in Norfolk and a number of zoom meetings, on varying topics, if anyone wants further information on these events please get in touch and I can send you my notes.

The monthly newsletter seems to have been well received, and it goes without saying if you have anything, you feel would interest other members please get in touch.

Earlier in the year Neil Midgley held a navigation course, jointly with the Calderdale Group, those who attended gave some brilliant feedback on the course, Neil has said he will be putting on the course again in the new year, watch out for the dates.

Committee meetings are held quarterly at the Brown Cow Bingley, all are welcome to come along and get involved. Please have a word with any committee member if you want to come along.

The last point from me is to thank all the committee and members who make West Yorkshire Long Distance Walkers Association what it is today, and long may it continue.

• **Treasurer's/Financial Report – Tim Rollett**

Current balances: Current account balance is £10,101.78 and cash balance is £155.60.

Notable transactions during the year:

Challenge events

A successful sold-out Gargrave challenge event generated gross income of £2844.47 (including £20 cash). After SI Entries fees (deducted at source) the net income received for the event was £2602.96. Some receipts are still to be paid out for the event and do not appear in the 2023/24 accounts. A provisional profit and loss account can be seen at the end of this report and shows a provisional surplus of over £1800.

Cracoe Cracker has seen another sell out. Total entries received by SI Entries is £1958.06, with £979.03 transferred to the bank account to date. A total of £979.03 is withheld by SI Entries until after the event and from this, an amount of £151.34 will be deducted for their fees.

Roundhay 50 has seen £2310 received by SI Entries, with £1155 transferred to date.

See SI Entries summary below (Annex 1) for further details of income received to date for challenge events.

Martin Greaves monies

In May 2023 the group received a grant of £3800 from the LDWA Martin Greaves fund. The monies were ring fenced to be spent on producing an updated Ebor Way guidebook. To date, fund expenditure has been £1000 for publishing costs (Small Print) and £169.20 to the Ordnance Survey for a publishing license. The balance of funds is now £2630.80.

Speyside hundred

The group accommodation at Shelter Stone House was administered via the club bank account. The amount of £300 was paid out to the marshals as a contribution to their costs (£50 each). The club subsequently received £500 from the NEC for supporting the event.

Opening Balances	Bank (£)	Cash (£)	Amount (£)
Total opening balances	8344.05	37.33	8381.38
Income			
Gargrave 2024 entries	2582.96	20.00	
Cracoe Cracker 2024 entries (to date)		979.03	
Roundhay 2025 entries (to date)		1155.00	
Cash donations (Gargrave)		60.00	
Speyside accommodation	1574.00		
Speyside deposit reimbursement	200.00		
Speyside marshalling - NEC contribution		500.00	
Xmas meal	515.00	150.00	
Total income	7505.99	230.00	7735.99
Expenditure			
AGM Refreshments	133.55		
Flowers	32.00		

Xmas (meal, prizes and deposit)	1193.46	49.78	
Martin Greaves Fund	1169.20		
Equipment	144.00		
Gargrave expenses (to date)	292.10	10	
Cttee meeting refreshments	30.85	49.25	
Merchandise	75.00		
Speyside Marshall's expenses	300.00		
Speyside accommodation	1820.00		
UWFRA donations	200.00		
Urban Search and Rescue	200.00		
Bank charges	8.10		
Postage/stamps	2.7		
Roundhay 50 Hall Deposit	150.00		
Total expenditure	5748.26	111.73	5859.99
Net income/expenditure		1876.00	
Closing Balances	10101.78	155.60	10257.38

One Foot in the Gargrave provisional profit and loss account

Income	£	£	Expenditure	£	£
SI Entries		2824.47	Equipment	70.91	
Cash on the day	20		Food and drink	437.04	10
Donations	60		Hall hire	240	
			Drinks for Marshalls	52.1	
			SI Entries fees	241.51	
Total income		2824.47			
	10.00		Total expenditure		1041.56
		2904.47			
				1051.56	
				1852.91	

- Social Secretary's Report – Lesley Peel**

As a group we have had 3 social events over this last year, the third of which was walking Isaac's Tea Trail in the North Pennines.

This took place over the weekend of Friday 13th - Sunday 15th September 2024. Sixteen members of the group travelled up to Alston on Friday afternoon and stayed in either the youth hostel, local pub, or nearby self-catering accommodation. Plus, we all got together on Saturday evening for dinner and enjoyed delicious food in the Alston House Hotel. The walk was split into 2 days, 17miles from Allendale to Alston on Saturday, and 21 miles from Alston back to Allendale on Sunday. We walked in the footsteps of the legendary tea seller and local benefactor Issac Holden, over glorious dales and wild moors, and witnessed stunning views across the Pennines. We were once again very kindly hosted by members of Northumbria LDWA, and particular thanks must go to Paul Nellist and Paul Ashman for all their organisation and enthusiasm in making the weekend a wonderful success.

Our second event on Saturday 29th June 2024 was walking the 30-mile Durham Dales Challenge starting from the beautiful village of Wolsingham. It was a fabulous route, which took us over rough moorland, picturesque dales and beautiful villages. The weather was kind to us and the curry at the finish was definitely one of the highlights of the day. Several of us had decided to make a weekend of it, as on the Sunday Northumbria LDWA had offered to lead us on a gentle circular walk on the moors above the historic, medieval village of Blanchland. This was a beautiful

walk and we were also treated to an educational talk about how the valleys on the moor had been formed by glacial erosion many, many years ago. A mid-afternoon finish allowed us to have refreshments in one of the quaint cafes in the village, before departing for home.

Our first event was the Christmas 'Do' on Saturday 7th December 2023. This was a little different to previous years, in that it was based in Ilkley. The day was cold but very sunny, perfect for a festive 12 mile walk on the tops above Ilkley, taking in Addingham, and the riverside path, with lots of mince pies eaten on the way. Once back at the cars, we took the opportunity to change into our party gear and headed over to The Moody Cow. To get us in the Christmas Spirit, we all enjoyed a complimentary drink, before being served a traditional or alternative Christmas Dinner. 'Widow Twanky' decided to join us this year and provided us all with much amusement! We had a surprise visit from Father Christmas who kindly helped with our raffle prizes, and then the evening was rounded off with our usual rousing singing of 'The 12 Days of Christmas'. Many thanks go to Sue and Iain for their help in making the day another one to remember.

- **Walk's Secretary Report – Julia Warman**

Yet again, I am happy to report that our walk leaders have provided us with a busy and varied programme of walks over the last 12 months. As in previous years we have continued with supporting other groups by putting on joint walks with Calderdale, Nidderdale and South Pennines.

To date we have also put on the One Foot in the Gargrave event (Sept 24) and we have the Cracoe Cracker (Oct 24) and Roundhay 50 events (Feb 2025) in our forthcoming programme.

MONTH	MILES	ATTENDEES
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2023

October	125	71
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November	54.5	49
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December	141	161
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2024

January	55	73
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February	40	46
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March	113	88
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April	69	20
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May	78.5	41
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June	64	36
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July	81	29
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August	69	39
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September (as at 16/9/24)	37	16
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Total for 2022/23 - Miles

Total for 2022/23 – attendees

TOTAL:	927	669	1015	713
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The numbers this year might be slightly down on last year but I am also aware we have been supporting new and many existing challenge events and we have always have a strong presence on a lot of the “local” and “not so local” events.

December 2023 was a bumper month for both mileage and people attending our walks. This was due in part to the 4 Bah Humbug walks led over the 4 days between Christmas and New Year by John Phillips and Christine Stratton (joint walks with East Yorkshire). I am delighted to say the Bah Humbug walks will be taking place again this year – 2 to be led by Madeleine Watson, and 2 to be led by John and Christine. This year's walks will be joint walks with The Irregulars. Last year they proved extremely popular and here's hoping this year is the same story.

I would like to personally thank all of our walk leaders for all the time and effort that goes into not only leading the walks, but also undertaking reccies to ensure all is in order; and I appreciate some of the reccies take 2 or 3 trips out to finalise the walks.

Walks register are always completed and submitted in a timely fashion – so thank you all for that.

Here's to the next 12 months and thanks to those who have already committed to leading walks. We are also slowly introducing back into the programme mid-week walks, so watch this space!

- **Web Master – Tom Wood**

Tom confirmed the website was working all ok and thanked those who had contributed, Tom asked if at all possible if photos could be emailed to him as sending WhatsApp's took time to load onto the system.

- **Election of Officers**

Chair – Position Vacant Nomination – Ralph Warman	Proposer – Seconders –
Secretary – Position Vacant Nomination – Chris Burrell	Proposer – Seconders –
Treasurer Nomination – Tim Rollett	Proposer – Seconders –
Walks Secretary Nomination – Julia Warman	Proposer – Seconders –
Social Secretary Nomination – Lesley Peel	Proposer – Seconders –
Webmaster Nomination – Tom Wood	Proposer – Seconders –
Ordinary Committee Member Nomination – Sue Manley	Proposer – Seconders –
Ordinary Committee Member Nomination – Iain Haigh	Proposer – Seconders –
Ordinary Committee Member Nomination – Karen Pickersgill	Proposer – Seconders –
Ordinary Committee Member Nomination – Roger Mahony	Proposer – Seconders –

Ordinary Committee Member
Nominated – Zoe Matsell

Proposer –
Seconder –

Ordinary Committee Member
Nominated – Margreat Bluer

Proposer –
Seconder –

Please note, in the absence of Sue Haigh, and Iain Haigh, they were re-elected after confirming they would stand for another year.

As there was no other candidates put forward, the existing committee was sworn back in by a unanimous vote.

- **AOB**

- Abi MacDonald: - said, that when leading a group walk, it was good to know and appreciated that the walks leaders had the full backing and experience not only from the committee, but all members who turned up to walk.
- Randal Metzger: - asked if it would be worth making contact with walking festival organisers [i.e. Otley, Bingley, and Baildon walking festivals] to offer the help of leading a walk. [or work a group walk around the festival dates. Secretary comment]
 - i. RM to forward contact details to RW.
- Randal Metzger: - commented on the monthly newsletter, which he thought was a great way to communicate to the members.
- Madeleine Watson: - asked if any surplus money from events [i.e. the difference in members and non LDWA entries fees] was sent to the LDWA IT fund. RW confirmed this had not happened.
- LP: - confirmed the Wheatley Arms had been booked for our Christmas dinner [07/12/24] a sheet was passed around to register your attendance.
- RW: - ICE [in case of emergency] tags. RW suggested that all WY members had some form of ICE identification with them on group walks.
 - i. To be discussed at the next committee meeting.
- RW: - re 2025 events, the group are prepared to consider and subsidise any social events and activities which members would like to do.
- RW: - reminded that 2026 was the 50th anniversary of WY LDWA and suggestions were welcome to what we can do the celebrate this land mark occasion.
- RW: - confirmed that £500 had been received from the NEC for helping out on the Speyside 100, he thanked the NEC for this payment.
- CB: - thanked all those that attended the Speyside 100, the walkers and the checkpoint helpers, who I am reliably informed had a great time.
- CB: - confirmed that apart from a member slipping into a river, there had been no accidents or near misses on any WY group walks or challenge events.
- CB: - mentioned that WY was going to return the hospitality to the Northumbria Group next September possibly in Kettlewell
 - i. To be discussed at the next committee meeting
- The below emails were received from WY members, which make what we do all worthwhile: -
 - i. Please accept my apologies for the AGM, I will be flying to Pakistan on Saturday. As per previous years, I trust the pre-walk will be enjoyable and the AGM productive.

In my opinion the West Yorkshire group is in the best shape since I started participating in 2015 due to the strong efforts over many years of committee members and walk leaders, which has attracted and retained many keen walkers. In turn, this has facilitated good numbers on group walks, which then encourages return participation of new walkers due to the diversity of 'regulars'. The results are slow-burn but they have been strongly evident, in my opinion, since interpretation of highly restrictive COVID measures finally facilitated normal group walking.

I hope the local group continues to go from strength to strength.

- ii. Really thought I would never ever attend another meeting after leaving the university and its intolerable endlessly meetings, but the AGM today was a special exception!

Thank you all for all your amazing hard work and good spirits.

It's a year since I last walked with you and the support and kindness, I received from W Yorks LDWA during that bleak year was amazing and truly sustaining & helpful.

I thought afterwards on the train about how reading about the walks and Chris' cheery newsletters was part of that for me and I am sure for others who, for whatever reason, are unable to join the walks at the moment, and the individual messages and cards LDWA members sent to me were lovely and fantastically encouraging too.

Don't under estimate all you do!!

Meeting ended at 3.40pm