

West Yorkshire LDWA AGM
Wednesday 13th October 2021
Chair's Report

I ended my report last year by expressing the hope that we would be able to come together in person for the 2021 AGM – and it's great that we can do that. Despite the fact that the Covid restrictions were gradually eased, and more recently lifted, it's still been a challenging year as a result of the effects of the pandemic.

The reports from the Group Officers provide an overview of the group's progress, activities and finances over the past year – working within the Covid restrictions, and the NEC guidelines, we have offered our members a programme of walks and other events to keep them walking and meeting up. A recent new feature of our programme has been our Thursday walks from Idle in Bradford, all of which have included interesting history of the area and at least two café stops. Thank you to Kevin Hudson and Trevor Wardman for the "Thursday Walks". In addition, this year, we have developed the social walks database on our website (providing GPX files for many of our led walks).

Due to considerable effort from the South Wales Group the LDWA was able to run the Virtual Y 100 Sir Fynwy. Members of the West Yorkshire group took part in the challenge – organising their own route and support. A huge well done to all who entered and congratulations to those who completed the event.

Across the LDWA, the West Yorkshire Group is recognised as an active, friendly and welcoming group who know how to put on a great day's walk and we regularly have members from other local groups join us. The programme of walks and other events wouldn't happen without the support and commitment of our walk leaders, volunteers and the Committee – who I would like to thank for their ongoing involvement. Bryan Wiseman, our IT Officer, has decided to step down from the committee after many years of being in this role. Bryan will continue to support the group with our IT requirements and as a volunteer on checkpoints. I'd like to thank Bryan for all his hard work for the group over the years.

Looking forward, we have a busy 12 months ahead of us. In the short term we have the First Aid Training for our regular walk leaders and the group is hosting the Local Groups' Weekend in Haworth. 2022 is the 50th Anniversary of the LDWA during which we'll take the opportunity to raise our profile by holding a series of special walks and social events. In May and June, members of the Group will support checkpoints on the Trans-Pennine 100 – both on the Marshall's Walk and on the main event.

The West Yorkshire Group is keen to support and develop national initiatives and, during 2022, will contribute walks to the new History Group. In addition, as part of the efforts to make the LDWA more accessible and welcoming (and therefore more attractive to new members) we have offered to try out a number of ideas to achieve this. One of the main priorities for the LDWA for 2022 is the project to introduce a replacement website and members of our committee have been involved in putting forward the group's requirements of the replacement system.

Finally, I'd like to come back to the committee which, collectively, is responsible for our success over the past 12 months. Without the efforts of every member of the committee we wouldn't have such a strong

group. In particular we should thank Chris Burrell for his energy, enthusiasm and new ideas over the past 12 months – the time he’s invested in the group is much appreciated. We must also thank Julia Warman who has continued to make a significant contribution to the group during a very tough and worrying time for her personally. And finally, once again, Ralph Warman, in his role as the Group Secretary, deserves much thanks for the time he’s invested in the group and his ongoing commitment. Ralph genuinely cares about the group’s reputation and success and can always be relied on to do whatever it takes to support the club.

I look forward to continuing to support the group as an Ordinary Committee Member and am grateful for all the help I’ve had from Ralph and the other members of the committee in the role of Chair over the last 3 years. I’d like to wish the new chair success in the role.

Finally, we always need new members to get involved in running the group, leading walks and supporting our annual challenge event. In particular, we are interested in hearing from anyone who would like to support our 50th Anniversary activities. Please get in touch with us if you think you can help.

Karen Pickersgill

Chair