



Wiltshire LDWA AGM Minutes

Sunday 8th December 2024 @ 1500hrs

Egypt Mill Hotel & Restaurant, Stroud Road,
Nailsworth, Gloucestershire, GL6 0AE

In Attendance:

Bruce BARCLAY	Jon BATEMAN	Steve BRAITHWAITE	Malcolm CHRISTIE
Simon CLARKE	Adrian CROCKER	Frederik FOLKSTAD	Clive FRANKHAM
John FRENCH	Phil HENEGHAN	Richard HICKMAN	Carol HOLMES
Angela JOHNSON	Struan MCDONALD	Sue PAVEY	Virginie PAWLYN
Dave PURDY	Lucy ROBINS	Clare STAFF	Ben STAITE
Roger SWIFT	Bea THERIN	Andy TODD	Guy VOWLES
Mike WILLIS			

Agenda Item		Actions / Notes
1.	Welcome (Andy)	Andy welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked Bea for organising the venue.
2.	Apologies for absence (Clive)	Paul Hopkins, Alan Voyce, John and Jo Walker
3.	Approval of last year's AGM minutes (Clive)	The minutes of the last AGM were approved unanimously, proposed by Dave and seconded by Jon .
4.	Matters arising (Clive)	None.
5.	Chair's report (Andy)	See attached.
6.	Secretary's report (Clive)	See attached.
7.	Treasurer's report (Dave)	See attached. Dave asked those seeking reimbursement of expenses to submit good clear photos of their receipts. Bea offered to audit the accounts, after which the accounts can be submitted for approval. Clive agreed to continue to authorise payments until alternative arrangements are in place.
8.	Walks Secretary's report (Lucy)	See attached.
9.	Election of Officers (Clive)	The constitution permits all of the officers on the committee to stand again, of which four were willing to do. Sue's nomination as Secretary was unanimously approved, proposed by Bea and seconded by Simon .
10.	Motions (Clive)	No motions were received.

11.	Approval of the draft Constitution (Clive)	The updated Constitution of the Wiltshire Local Group of the Long Distance Walkers Association was approved unanimously, proposed by Bea and seconded by Bruce .
12.	AOB (Clive)	Andy outlined an issue with the 2025 Pewsey Downsaround, offering three possible options. The meeting rejected changing the date or it not taking place altogether. Instead attendees voted to instruct the committee to investigate all available venues and report back to the group. Andy made everyone aware of the e-mail sent by the Bristol & West group following their recent AGM, regarding a possible merger. Attendees at the Wiltshire AGM voted to instruct the committee to keep its members fully informed of any developments. Bea kindly offered to investigate the possibility of a coastal walking weekend, involving a stay in a YHA hostel.
13.	Close (Andy)	The meeting ended at 1600hrs.

Clive Frankham

Secretary of the Wiltshire LDWA (*Outgoing*)

CHAIR'S REPORT

Another year, and another report! I start this by thanking **Clive** for his sterling work as our secretary for the past 3 years. I would also like to thank **Sue**, who has volunteered (?) to takeover. I would also like to thank all you, our members, for being part of the group this past year. This group only exists because of you, our members.

We have had a good programme of walks this year, however it is still not as regular as I would have liked. More notice generally means more people are likely to attend. However, a late walk is better than no walk, and some of our late advertised walks have been some of the best attended. We had a few 'specials' this year which were well attended. I would like to thank **Bea** for her 'Summertime Extravaganza'.

Lucy will be on to all of you to organize a walk. It's not difficult to do. If you are not sure, or want some assistance you only have to ask.

A small group of us attended the 100 in Scotland this year, after a good week's walking in the area. Next year we are helping out on the Suffolk with a checkpoint in Aldeburgh with the Dorset group.

The Pewsey Downsaround (PDA) went very well, and was almost 'full', much to my surprise. We do have a problem with the PDA for next year, and I would appreciate the thoughts of all of you as to the best way forward.

Andy Todd

Chair of the Wiltshire LDWA

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The publication of our monthly newsletter has been maintained throughout the year, with circulation continuing to increase steadily each month. The upward trend must be due to the number of associate members we have, i.e. those members from other groups who choose to receive e-mails from us, **as our primary membership has decreased by nearly 20% to just over 200 since the last AGM.** Thank you for the many kind comments I've received throughout the year regarding the newsletter.

After serving 2 three year terms in the last 7 years, it's time for me to step down from the role. Despite **Lucy's** efforts in getting the walking programme back to near pre-pandemic levels, I feel the group is still flat lining. I agree with her comment that more advance notice of walks needs to be given in order to get a better attendance. I for one am often frustrated that I've something else planned when a group walk is scheduled.

For a while I have felt that the committee isn't really interested in the day-to-day running of the group, choosing to focus instead on organising the PDA, Ridgeway 40 and the 50-miler. Committee members should consider it a privilege to be leading this group, and not a chore. The committee should be running all aspects of the group in accordance with our agreed Constitution, both proactively and with enthusiasm.

During walks, members regularly confide in me their concerns about the way the group is currently being run. Judging by the aforementioned rapid decline in our membership, many have simply given up altogether! Some consider the committee to be cliquey, whilst others are concerned that too much is made of the use of Meetup. As fully paid up members of the LDWA, it is only right and proper that all members, regardless of whether they are active or inactive, are treated equally. **The committee needs to ensure that not only are walks published on the web site, the details of the walk(s) must also be emailed to all members, particularly when the walk is offered at short notice.** The single biggest asset our group has is its people. They need to be put first, as without their continued support, it will become increasingly difficult to maintain our walks programme and organise events such as the PDA.

Since v1.0 of this agenda was circulated, I've been receiving comments from members, all long-time members of the group, including former committee members. Their comments support the views I've expressed above, with one 'wanting to say the same, but feeling unable to'. Another comment requested that our walks programme returns to the 1st and 3rd Sunday, and middle Thursday format, to help reduce the double booking mentioned earlier and provide much needed structure. I've also checked how many emails have been sent from the group this year ... just 17! 11 of those were my newsletters, 3 were reminders about the AGM and xmas meal, and the remainder were regarding the Speyside 100, Bea's 'summer extravaganza' trip, and a single walk notification.

The Bristol & West group is finding their lack of volunteers coming forward challenging enough to put forward the idea that our two groups merge. Clearly a lot of thought needs to go into this, with the involvement of the LDWA NEC. I'm of the opinion that before any decision is made, members of the Wiltshire LDWA must be consulted. My worry is that for all the aforementioned reasons, until our committee addresses the issues raised, this group is not yet ready for such a merger.

Another reason for not continuing in the role was the cancellation of the LDWA Local Groups' Weekend, which was one of the highlights of my year.

Clive Frankham

Secretary of the Wiltshire LDWA

TREASURER'S REPORT

The following accounts have yet to be audited.

LDWA WILTSHIRE ACCOUNTS SUMMARY - 1st JANUARY TO 31st OCTOBER 2024

Opening Balance: £6,828.73

Closing Balance: £9,731.37

Change in Balance: £2,902.64

Item	Income	Expenditure	Net Income	Comment
PDA	£4,358.30	£1,420.05	£2,938.25	
Stripe	£182.86	£0.00	£182.86	Difficult to untangle
General	£110.41	£162.30	-£51.89	HF Refund and Meetup Fees
LDWA 100	£584.27	£379.25	£205.02	Assistance
Train Walk	£5.00	£201.60	-£196.60	
AGM 2024	£0.00	£175.00	-£175.00	Deposit only
Total	£5,240.84	£2,338.20	£2,902.64	

Dave Purdy

Treasurer of the Wiltshire LDWA

WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT

I would like to thank everyone who has led a walk for us this year and encourage more people to do the same for next year. Here are some statistics for you:

- We were able to put on 34 social walks this year and also run the PDA and Ridgeway challenge events.
- 22 of our walks were on Sundays, 9 on Thursdays, 2 on Saturdays (both 50-milers) and 1 on a Tuesday (for the Severn Bore).

I would like to especially thank **Bea Therin** for her hard work in putting on the railway walk in the summer which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

We have been lucky to have 17 different leaders, mostly longstanding members, but a few new ones too. Most of the walks have been well attended, generally the more notice people get the better for attendance. We have been using Meetup alongside the LDWA website for advertising the walks, this has brought along a few new members.

I hope we are able to continue with similar success for the next year and a full and varied programme.

Lucy Robins

Treasurer of the Wiltshire LDWA