

Wiltshire LDWA January Newsletter

2021 Pewsey Downsaround Decisions

Wilts committee has met to consider the event.

We're sad to report that a real Pewsey Downsaround won't be held as planned in April this year. The continuing risk of Covid infection has meant that a much-reduced event would be inevitable once necessary precautions are applied. Also, we have only four volunteer marshals (thanks to them, and we understand why so few) and could not guarantee a viable number of entrants.

We still hope to run an Anytime PDA, though. Dave Purdy has been working on it for us and we know what we want to do but need to wait for signs of optimism on infection numbers and restrictions before provisionally setting the timing and posting the event on SiEntries to open applications. It will appear shortly on the Wilts LDWA calendar.

Current plans are for a 26.6 mile route with several start points to choose from to further avoid congestion. Shortcuts will be suggested for those who need them. Current insurance constraints dictate LDWA members only, we'll have 150 places. Entry will cost £5, non-returnable but donated less costs to Wilts Air Ambulance if the event is cancelled.

A Marshals' walk is scheduled for 28th March.

We'll meet again in mid-Feb, hoping to be able to decide on the date range, currently 1st April to 9th May, and whether we have confidence to accept entries, which will always be provisional. Local and national Covid restrictions at time of walking will in any case apply.

Meanwhile, we're aiming to set a date for 2022 and will let you know.

Walks Secretary

We've had another change to our committee, by mutual agreement.

Steve Carver has taken on this role and with Bruce's help is getting his feet under the table. Contact him in the usual way, via wiltshire.walkssecretary@ldwa.org.uk

He's hoping to have something to offer you all soon!

Treasurer

As has been mentioned previously Richard Hotchkiss would like to step down as treasurer because he thinks the post should be filled by someone who is a more active walker. Richard is prepared to stay on until a replacement is found but we are looking for someone to volunteer to replace him.

Most of you will have seen in the LDWA Chair's Update that the Cleveland Group has closed because they were unable to get volunteers to fill committee positions. Don't let that happen to the Wiltshire Group.

Walks Status

The walks programme after March/April is looking a bit bare. Hopefully by this time things will be getting back to normal. Steve Carver the new Walks Secretary would appreciate any offerings which should be sent to the above email address. There have been plenty of cancelled walks recently which could be rescheduled to later in the year.

Charity Status

You may have seen in the latest Strider 148 on page 16 that the NEC is considering whether the LDWA should become a charity and have asked for members with any relevant experience to write to Strider. If any Wiltshire LDWA member has had experience of running a charity please contact our chairman wiltshire.chair@ldwa.org.uk

Wiltshire Long Distance Paths

Tim Lewis the Ramblers Wiltshire Area footpath officer has appealed for volunteers to help monitor the condition of the long distance paths in Wiltshire. If any members would like to volunteer to assist Tim you can contact him on this email address timwhlewis@gmail.com.

National AGM

The National AGM will be held 7th March by ZOOM.

If you would like to attend you need to register by 21st February.

Graham Instrell will be attending for the committee.

If you have any questions for the AGM these needed to be submitted by 28th February.

Voting closes 21st February and the 100s coordinator is the only post being contested.

Warmest regards

Bruce

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