Wiltshire LDWA AGM Agenda

Sunday 6th December 2026 @ 1500hrs

Old Royal Ship, Luckington, Chippenham SN14 6PA

1. Welcome **(Clive)**
2. Apologies for absence **(Clive)**

   Please accept my apology - Sue
3. Approval of last year's AGM minutes **(Clive)**
4. Matters arising
5. Reports
   a. Chair **(Clive)**
   b. Secretary's report **(Clive)**
   c. Treasurer's report **(David)**
   d. Walks Secretary's report **(Lucy)**
6. Elections of Officers **(Clive)**

   As indicated in the constitution, all Members of the Committee shall retire at the Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election. Nominations may be taken at the Annual General Meeting for any posts for which nominations have not been duly received.

   Tony Rothwell has been nominated for the position of treasurer by Jacqui Tyzack, and seconded by Sharon Greatrex.
7. Motions **(Clive)**

   A motion has been proposed by Graham Instrell and seconded by Simon Clarke:

   Wilts LDWA, having a large and stable surplus of funds, should make significant donations to charities or causes related to walking, for the benefit of our local community.
8. Any Other Business **(Clive)**
9. Close **(Clive)**

Suzanne Pavey
Secretary of the Wiltshire LDWA

CHAIR'S REPORT

The obvious place to start my report is by comparing what has been achieved against the 'manifesto' that I was voted in on this time last year:

- ✓ Primary members have received monthly newsletters detailing the activities of both the committee and the wider group. Members have told me that they are please the newsletters have been reintroduced.

- ✓ The committee has been transparent with the membership, by publishing committee meeting minutes, and including highlights in the newsletter. I'd like to think I've chaired the committee meetings properly, listening to my fellow committee members, and ensuring we operate democratically in the best interests of the group. The group has also been represented on the LDWA's Local Group Teams meetings, as well as at the annual Local Groups Weekend.

- ✓ The walks programme has been based on - but not exclusively - a regular drumbeat, i.e. 1st and 3rd Sundays, and the middle Thursday. We have had a published walks programme to look forward to, with some walks even making it into Strider!

- ✓ The walk leaders' volunteers list has been published in the monthly newsletter, so we could watch it filling up throughout the coming year.

- ✓ The Pewsey Downsaround (PDA) took place on the same weekend as the Bath Beat. All four distances, i.e. 10, 17, 26 and 35 miles, were supported. Whilst my plan for a separate PDA sub-committee didn't quite get the traction I had hoped for this year, we were able to look at the best system for recording entrants' progress. More on that later in my report.

- ✓ All those volunteering at the Hundred received a financial 'thank you' for taking part. Those volunteering at the PDA had their expenses paid and have received a discount on their xmas meal.

- ✓ All Meetup walks now manage walkers' expectations by including 'the LDWA is a membership organisation. Walkers may attend 3 walks, before they are expected to join'. New walks are simultaneously being published on the LDWA website and on Meetup. I would, however, still like to see them emailed directly to our members. I still have reservations regarding us using (and paying for) Meetup. As far as I'm concerned it is just a walks register used by a handful of walkers.

- ✓ We have collected the names of those attending walks, as required by the LDWA NEC.

In addition to the my official role, I've led 4 walks, attended a further 12, taken part in 2 challenge walks, and volunteered at both the LDWA Hundred and the Ridgeway 40.

As far as the 'health' of our group is concerned, I'm content that we're in good shape. According to the LDWA's walks database, we have put on 39 (40) group social walks since the last AGM. The

average distance of our group social walks is 16¾ miles, which is identical to last year. For the purposes of this calculation, I have excluded the more extreme distances

Many of our walkers have been introduced to the pleasures of walking in the south of our county during the summer. Salisbury Plain has been a barrier in recent years, with the group concentrating on walking in the north of the county, as well as in Gloucestershire. Given that our membership is spread across the region, to achieve a balanced walks programme, I would urge (prospective) walk leaders to consider leading walks in areas local to them. That includes those Bristol & West members we have inherited. In my opinion the demise of the Bristol & West group was badly thought through. I sought advice from the LDWA Chair, who advised us (to continue) to offer walks in the vacated area.

I was recently invited to Highgrove Gardens for an event hosted by the King's Foundation, to discuss proposals for a new on-site health and wellbeing centre. A wide range of organisations were represented, all based within a 20-mile radius of Tetbury. I was there to represent the interests of both the Wiltshire LDWA and the North West Wiltshire Ramblers. During the morning session we discussed what already exists in our communities to support health and wellbeing, and what works well. We also discussed the biggest gaps and unmet needs. The afternoon session began with us discussing ideas and opportunities where Highgrove could add genuine value. Since going for a walk is our best and simplest way of connecting with nature, one of the foundation's key principles, it was relatively easy to sell walking as an activity. Hopefully I was able to raise the profile of the LDWA amongst the 80+ attendees.

The heatwaves have been a concern this year, putting some of our regulars off walking. I continued to walk throughout the summer months, but set off earlier so I was finished by 2pm. The day I led, I ended up suffering from heatstroke. I urge all our walkers to listen to the expert advice on offer, and put their health first. Walks will still be there when you're ready to return. If the heatwaves are repeated next year, I would ask walk leaders to consider earlier starts, and figure of 8 walks, so that walkers can choose a distance that they are comfortable with.

Pewsey Downsaround (PDA)

As far as the entrants were concerned, the PDA was a great success. There were many first timers, as well as our regulars. In no particular order, they loved the food, the countryside, the weather, the organisation and the welcome they received at our checkpoints. I also believe it went very well from our side, despite some minor issues.

- Using PACER was, in my opinion, the right call. It is widely used across the LDWA, it is well documented, and there are many experienced users we can call upon when needed. Prior to this year's event, John French arranged a meeting with Tony Cartwright from Surrey LDWA. Setting the event up on PACER was a breeze. PACER2 is meant to be even better. The interaction between SiEntries and PACER was also smooth.

- PACER can work with or without scanners, i.e. the operator can simply type in the entrant's three-figure number (or surname). We borrowed 6 scanners from Surrey LDWA this year.

- Whilst I believe other groups use PACER with members' own phones, I understand that the feedback is, if we have our own group handsets, we should use them in future. Whichever handset we use still needs to be able to connect to a mobile phone network at the HQ and checkpoints.

- The lack of WiFi at the Scout Hut came as a surprise to me. There were fixes available, but as entrants had already begun arriving, there was no time to play around.

- The manual recording system worked very well. Having both chronological and alphabetical paper lists, meant any typos/anomalies were easily spotted. The results were fed into PACER relatively quickly after the event, and certificates published. From the time he arrived, Steve Braithwaite had a very good handle on the numbers still to arrive at the finish, which was a huge help to the caterers.

- A WhatsApp group had been set up prior to the event, to which I was added on the day. As a communication choice it worked very well, however, in future all checkpoints need to be included in it. Next year we will have two WhatsApp groups, i.e. one exclusively for managing the catering, and one to help monitor entrants.

- The idea of having a mass start soon went out of the window. A number of runners reached CPs 1 and 4 before the official opening times. Next year the 35-mile walkers will be allowed to start early; the 17- and 26-mile walkers/runners and the 35-mile runners to start at 0800hrs; and the 10-mile walkers/runners to start no earlier than 0900hrs. The revised timings would be published beforehand on SiEntries.

- CP1 closed early. In future all CPs will adhere to their published timings.

- There was an error in the longer route descriptions, caused by my cutting and pasting skills, or lack thereof. A couple of entrants pointed this out to me at the start. A few pedants also pointed out to me that GPX route didn't exactly match the satellite image of the route on the ground. Luckily they chose to air their views publicly, and were subsequently rounded on by many of the LDWA Facebook community. Any errors will be corrected ahead of next year's event.

- Apparently WHSmith/TGJones string is inferior quality. It also needs to be slightly longer next year.

- We will do more to publicise next year's event to the wider population of Wiltshire, not just to runners and LDWA members.

Whilst the catering staff never stopped working, there was an air of calm at HQ throughout the day, with everyone getting on with the job they had 'volunteered' for. The calm was only disturbed when Jon Bateman attempted to help Phil Heneghan complete his crossword!

During the week leading up to the PDA, I was 'interviewed' live on BBC Wiltshire. Clearly registration for the PDA had already closed by then. However, I did manage to 'plug' the Ridgeway 40. I gather there was a spike in the number of entrants for the latter, following the broadcast.

Whilst we are slowly eliminating any 'single points of failure', we are still heavily reliant on Janette's catering and organisational skills, which are pivotal to the success of our event, as well as at other events. Janette has developed a plan for reducing her workload prior to, and during the event. It requires more volunteers to come forward and share the following tasks, i.e. cake baking, sandwich making, vegetable preparation, taking delivery of the shopping, cutting fruit and cake, water provision, and post event-storage. There has also been talk about having a Marshals' walk which might reward those taking part with, e.g. a drink.

What we did well, we will continue to do. What we did not so well, we will improve on.

Finally ...

I would like to thank Sue, Dave, Lucy and Janette for their support and hard work throughout the year, and welcome Tony Rothwell onto committee as our new treasurer. Thank you too, to you the membership, for your support this year.

Hopefully that's been both a readable and comprehensive assessment of the year just gone. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Clive Frankham

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Members The group currently has 311 Primary members. This has increased from 231 last year, mainly due to those members in Bath postcodes being transferred to us from the Bristol and West group. The majority of our members are now located in the north and west of the area covered by the group. There are 473 Associate members. The majority of members opt in to receive emails: 252 of primary members and 418 of associate members.

Pewsey Downsaround Entry numbers were down this year, 207 from 230 in 2025. Next year the PDA will take place on Sunday 25th April. It is now advertised on the Wiltshire LDWA website and in this month's Strider. The event will be available to book on the SiEntries website from January. The cost structure will be the same as this year. The Avebury Social Centre has been booked for the Avebury checkpoint again. It has been suggested that a marshal's walk should take place, and a request made for volunteers for this.

Future 100 events The Jurassic 100 is taking place on 22nd to 24th May 2027 in Devon, organised by the Devon and Cornwall LDWA group. Clive is organising volunteers to assist at Dorset's checkpoint at Lyme Regis. (We were latterly asked to man our own checkpoint after being told that

all checkpoints were already assigned.) There has been a very encouraging response to a call out for volunteers so far.
The Millstone 100 in 2028 is being organised by the High Peak Group and we are awaiting confirmation of an allocated checkpoint.
The 100 in 2029 is being organised by Heart of England group and have already contacted Janette to request we man a checkpoint.

Ridgeway 40 This will take place on Saturday 8th May next year. We have been contacted by the new committee to request participants and volunteers to assist. I have given an assurance that our members are already involved, but that our members will be reminded of the event.

Sue Pavey

TREASURER'S REPORT

Wiltshire LDWA Accounts Summary – 1st November 2025 to 31st October 2026

Opening Balance: £10,067.12

Closing Balance: £9,965.48

Change in Balance: £-101.64

Key Elements

Item	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Net Income (£)	Comment
PDA 26	3,811.56	1,923.07	1,888.49	Down on last year £647.70
AGM 25	335.53	1,400.50	-1,064.97	
Nags&Nog	40.00	180.00	-140.00	Difficult to sort out
LDWA 100 26	500.00	1271.00	-771.64	

Monthly Figures

Month	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Net Income (£)	Comment
November 25	131.13	0.00	131.13	
December 25	434.40	1489.02	-1053.62	
January 26	122.50	0.00	122.50	

February 26	452.50	0.00	452.50	
March 26	354.50	0.00	354.50	
April 26	1405.50	309.04	1096.46	
May 26	1285.56	975.17	310.39	
June 26	0.00	1340.50	-1340.50	
July 26	500.00	0.00	500.00	
August 26	0.00	0.00	0.00	
September 26	0.00	650.00	-650.00	
October 26	0.00	100.00	-100.00	
November 26	75.00	0.00	75.00	For this year's AGM
Total	**4762.09**	**4863.73**	**-101.64**	

These accounts have not been audited

David Purdy

WALK 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.

We were able to put on 38 social Walks this year and also run the PDA and Ridgeway challenge events. This is down a bit from the 42 we put on last year.
Also only 33 were led by Wiltshire members, with the rest led by members from other groups as joint walks.
We have included some shorter walks to suit everyone.

I am happy to continue to offer walks of any length as long as we don't lose the longer walks too.
17 of our walks were on Sundays, 15 on Thursdays, 6 on other days including a 50 mile walk.
We have not had as many special walks this year, only the Lambourn walk visiting the stables, led by John French. Maybe people can think of ideas for next year.
We have had 12 different leaders from Wiltshire and 3 more from other groups, mostly longstanding members. This is down from 17 different leaders last year.
We need to encourage new walk leaders.
John Walker and Roger have led the most walks, 5 each. Simon and Clive not far behind with 4 each.

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 attended the group representatives weekend in Daventry this year.
Points raised over the weekend included, our inclusion policy, grievance and dispute resolution policy, insurance and the new digital platform.
The new website and app are due to launch in the spring. This will change the way that we put walks on. All primary members will be able to enter their walk details onto the website for the Walks Secretary to approve. Members will then be able to register their attendance on the walks in advance.
This should remove the requirement for a walks register taken by the leader.
The app will be available to members and non members and will be a way of keeping a record of achievement, you can earn badges (virtually) for walks and other achievements.
Pacer 2 will launch in the spring too. Not sure if it will be in time for the PDA. It can be used easily with mobile phones.
I hope we are able to build on what we have next year giving a full and varied programme to our members.

Lucy Robins