



LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

www.ldwa.org.uk

LDWA Chair's Newsletter: September 2020

Welcome to the September 2020 LDWA Chair's Newsletter.

I'll start this Newsletter with some positive news. After several weeks' work, social walk guidelines that now enable groups of larger than 6 but not exceeding 30 can now take place in England. The NEC worked hard with Sport England in order to understand what conditions were required that would enable the LDWA as the National Governing Body for walking to increase the number of social walk attendees. England's rules are different from both Wales and Scotland and whilst larger numbers are allowed to gather in the other nations, for larger numbers to gather in England, the LDWA had to put a plan together that included a risk assessment that must be completed for social walks in England when attendee numbers are larger than 6. Whilst the new rules might seem to be onerous or indeed will deter some walk leaders, the NEC has done everything it can to make the process as simple as possible. Walk leaders will make the decision on how many people they are happy to lead a walk for and the simple risk assessment will guide them through a decision making process which includes cognisance of local lockdown restrictions. Throughout the process, the NEC sought the views of the Local Group representatives and the documents reflect their feedback. Now we turn our attention to challenge events and the NEC COVID sub-committee has commenced the work that will ultimately see another application submitted to Sport England.

Happy 'Long Distance' Walking!

David Morgan

[Chair](#)



The 2021 LDWA Annual General Meeting

It is with considerable sadness that I advise members that on 24.08.20, the National Executive Committee made the decision to

not host the AGM in the traditional way. A hotel had been booked at Leamington Spa and the contract that had been signed to secure the services of the hotel meant that if the LDWA cancelled the event, a considerable cancellation fee would have been imposed. The cancellation fee rises considerably the later the decision is taken.

With the uncertainty of the 'new normal' and knowledge that many members might not book hotel rooms a decision has been taken to host the 2022 AGM in Leamington Spa and to hold the 2021 AGM via an online facility. I know that many members will be upset at the loss of what is always a very popular weekend, and from a personal perspective, I am disappointed too as it will be my final AGM as Chair. However, it is necessary to be pragmatic about how all our lives are being affected by COVID with the knowledge that one day, life will return to a form of normality that we all recognise.

New Ideas

Julian White, our Communications & Publicity NEC volunteer has set up a national group which is for LDWA 'members only' who want to go on history walks, chat about history, make new friends and also plan longer expeditions with. The groups are being set up on social media and whilst the on-line chat is wonderful, the long term aim is to get walks operating across the country, run by existing groups. You can access more about this new project at:

[Meet Up LDWA History Group](#) or [LDWA Facebook History Group](#)

New members have already joined the LDWA as they found us via MeetUp and two walks are planned for 2021.

We have also created a Facebook page that is dedicated to Long Distance Paths. For many years we have promoted the wonderful resource that is the Long Distance Paths database and now members are chatting to each other and sharing photos of long distance paths that they have enjoyed.

You can access more about this project at:

[LDWA Facebook Long Distance Paths Group](#)



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Rules in relation to the prospect of hosting challenge events differ in Wales from England. Y 100 Sir Fynwy Committee recently met and updated Alan Warrington (NEC 100 volunteer) with the issues to overcome. The event committee continues to work hard to deliver the event but recognises that there are considerable barriers to manage. An update will be posted on the event website within the month.



There is more good news in relation to donations to the IT Development Fund. The August Centurion Challenge earned £151 and this has now been added to the fund. Thank you for your continued generosity! In addition, the National Executive Committee met in early August and because the meeting was held on-line, £2500 was saved and this has now been transferred to the IT Fund too.