



LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

www.ldwa.org.uk

LDWA Chair's Newsletter: November 2020

Welcome to the November 2020 LDWA Chair's Newsletter.

Last month, in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, we learned that the LDWA's Hazel Bound had been awarded the British Empire Medal. Many of our members will know Hazel as for over 30 years, she has worked with Cornwall & Devon LDWA members when they have hosted their checkpoint on the annual 100 mile walk. Hazel has travelled the length of the country to run checkpoints in barns, tents and village halls. She has organised the Cornwall & Devon team into an efficient body of people and she has done all of this for the benefit of those of us who enter the annual event. She has selflessly given up her time, encouraged, cajoled and ensured that members have continued on their way feeling positive about the prospect of successfully completing their personal 100 mile challenge. Well done Hazel and I look forward to 'doffing my cap' when I see you in a checkpoint on a future 100 mile challenge event once COVID-19 allows events to get back to normal!

Earlier in the year, the LDWA's new Equality Policy was signed off by the NEC. If you're interested, you can read the policy [here](#). On 24.10, the NEC reviewed a document that will sit within the Equality Policy and it relates to inclusivity within our Association. The document is designed to focus on how inclusivity will attract and retain members, will look at pilot buddy schemes and explore the viability of certain local group members becoming official 'welcomers'.

Interested? Have a look [here](#).

Happy 'Long Distance'
Walking!

David Morgan
[Chair](#)



Lockdown

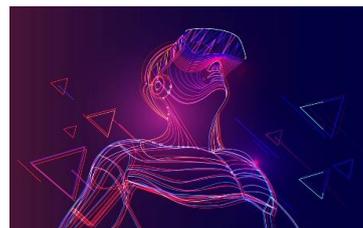
I'm sure that by now you've seen the news and know that England is to join Wales in a national lockdown in order to try and slow the spread of COVID-19 due to the likely impact on the NHS. Sadly, but predictably it was necessary to suspend both social and challenge walks for the duration of the 4 week lockdown. As I type this newsletter, LDWA social walking can now only take place in Scotland where organised sport can be enjoyed in all of the five tiered areas. The First Minister of Wales will update the nation on 02.11. and will advise on what activities will be permitted as Wales ends its lockdown on 09.11.

After all the work undertaken to enable social walks and finally challenge walks to return, it's a blow but also expected having seen how rapidly the virus is spreading amongst us. But, when restrictions are lifted, as the delivery plans for both social and challenge walks have now been written, we will soon be able to return to our sport and the NEC will advise members accordingly.

Virtual Challenge Events

One activity that can continue for us all is the LDWA style virtual challenge that Julie and Julian in particular work so hard at to deliver. This month's challenge is the Trig Point Challenge and members can walk for one hour and record their daily distance as well as trying

to visit trig points when walking from their homes. Members then post their photos and encourage each other through these difficult times. The challenges have been created to support members' mental health wellbeing as well as physical health. To take part in this month's challenge, please visit the [Facebook](#) page where the challenge is being hosted.



Local Groups Walks Database

Earlier in the year, the new Local Groups Walks Database was created and rolled out to all Local Groups. Groups have been encouraged to upload GPX files of their social walks so that members can download the routes for future use. I live in Monmouthshire and were I to go on holiday to another part of the UK, I could plan to walk a route that had been led previously and thus explore an area knowing that the route had been previously walked. Thank you to those Local Groups who have already uploaded GPX files of their social walks from this year and for also uploading GPX files from back catalogued walks. For the database to grow, it's crucial that Local Groups buy into the idea that they are adding to a national database that in time will serve both our members as well as the wider walking community. If members have GPX files from social walks they've been on previously, please do contact your Local Group representatives and they can upload them for you.



I am pleased to report that at the AGM that South Wales LDWA held on 25.10, a decision was taken by the members to donate 1/8 of the Group's reserves to the IT Development Fund. On behalf of the membership, thank you very much indeed. A further £2500 was saved as the NEC met remotely in October.