



LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

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LDWA Chair's Newsletter: January 2021

Welcome to the January 2021 LDWA Chair's Newsletter.

The optimism of the autumn has been well and truly rolled back and shortly after the announcement to cancel Y 100 Sir Fynwy, the three nations in which the LDWA operates announced restrictions that essentially curtailed all possible activities. The news was devastating as the hope had been to see challenge events, even with very limited numbers and social distancing rules strictly adhered to, reintroduced in January. Indeed, one Local Group was all set to organise a 'real event' and the NEC was very supportive as the Group had put together a comprehensive plan together that would have meant that the event was organised within the guidelines that the NEC had produced as one of the two National Governing Bodies for walking. As I prepare this newsletter, there is no prospect of LDWA activities returning but I'm sure we all hope for better news this spring.

This is the last newsletter that I will be sending as the Association Chair. There will be no newsletter in February and I stand down from the NEC on Sunday 7th March. Thank you to all members for the support over the last three years whilst I've been Chair. I have enjoyed (almost) every moment of the six years that I have worked on the NEC and I know that the LDWA will recover from the awful twelve months that we have all had to endure as the Covid-19 pandemic gripped the world. I am very much looking forward to enjoying a long distance backpacking walk when regulations permit.

Happy 'Long Distance' Walking!

David Morgan
Chair



Virtual Y 100 Sir Fynwy

In my last newsletter, I advised members of the sad but inevitable decision to cancel Y 100 Sir Fynwy. It has been necessary to think creatively to enable LDWA members to be able to participate in activities that enable them to remain safe whilst respecting all Government regulations. Consequently, virtual events are being encouraged as alternative options to real challenge events whilst Covid-19 regulations loom over us. In order to encourage the LDWA '100' family to come together, share experiences of the personal challenges that people will be attempting and to promote the very unique event that is the LDWA 100, the event will take place during the weekend of 29-31 May. To date 75 members have entered this event and we all know that it is not for the faint hearted. To walk 100 miles without checkpoints will be a great achievement, and in order to encourage the LDWA '100' family to participate, no qualifying event will be required and overseas members will be able to enter as the dates start and finish based on local times. Any member who walks 50 miles in under 24 hours will be qualified for next year's Trans Pennine 100 and any member who walks a verified 100 miles will have their success recorded on the 100s database.

Members can choose to walk any route that they wish and are encouraged to walk previous 100 mile routes, or circuits of 50, 33, 25 or 20 mile routes. It might be the case that Covid-19 restrictions mean that other routes might have to be walked.

Any walk over 50 miles long will need to be verified and the Virtual Y 100 Sir Fynwy committee will conduct this work when people submit their claims. In order to be flexible, a variety of supporting evidence will be accepted including GPX files, witness testimonies, time stamped photos and shop or ATM receipts.

Entries cost £20 and can only be made at SI Entries by clicking [here](#).

Cleveland LDWA Group

I am very sad to announce that the Cleveland LDWA Group has ceased to exist. In the latter part of 2020, the NEC worked with the Cleveland LDWA Group committee as the Group had failed to identify members who were willing to fill the key committee positions. The Group held an AGM but despite advising the primary members of the area of the challenges faced, nobody stepped forward. I sent an email to primary members in November and nobody responded to the pleas that were made. Consequently, on 08.12.20, the Group was formally dissolved and an agreement on the distribution of the Group's assets was reached.

The primary members of Cleveland LDWA Group have been transferred to Local Groups that surround the old Cleveland area and the geographical sizes of the surrounding groups have been increased. Work will soon commence to ensure that the map on the LDWA website reflects the changes. It was a sad meeting with the outgoing Cleveland LDWA committee and I wish to publicly reiterate my thanks to the members of the old committee for all the work they have undertaken on behalf of the Cleveland LDWA Group. The members had organised so many activities over so many years on behalf of the LDWA and they step down with their heads held high.



The membership renewal season for the LDWA is well under way and I wish to thank every member who has renewed their LDWA membership. Many members have, whilst renewing their membership, donated to the LDWA. Consequently, £510 will now be added to the IT Fund. Thank you all so much.