

News from the NEC

Welcome to the monthly newsletter from the NEC and we hope that you've got plenty of walking plans, whether that's social walking with our groups, taking part in challenge events or using our long distance paths database to plan your own adventure.

2022 LDWA AGM



It was a marvellous AGM near Leamington Spa this year for many reasons, not least the lunch we organised for members who joined us in 1972. This is one of the many events we'll be holding this year to mark our 50th anniversary and it was a delight to hear the stories from our history. Julie, Julian and Sara from the NEC all enjoyed learning more about the LDWA from those with two and three digit membership numbers.

Today, we have 10,361 members (including family members), so we hope we've made our founders and founder members proud! And as some good news, we've had 510 new members since the beginning of 2022.



We also saw a meeting of great minds with several former chairs coming together to share their experiences. We owe them all a great debt of gratitude for their work and it's surprising to hear how some past issues come back to challenge chairs of the LDWA, not least with how Covid-19 ravaged through our programme in a similar way to foot & mouth.

WAVING GOODBYE



We're sad to see Madeleine Watson depart the NEC, she's done a marvellous job in her role as secretary, and for a while acting IT officer, but she deserves some rest now (well, for a short while) and time to drink tea and go on even longer walks. She's replaced by Bill Milbourne as the new secretary but we're confident we'll see lots more of Madeleine.



Another end of an era, in two ways for Graham Smith, as he's not just leaving the role of Strider editor, but this marks the end of his period in journalism and editing of various sorts. It was fascinating to hear his final thoughts and there were many people wanting to thank Graham for all of his work over the years. Graham is replaced by Ken Falconer, but this is only a temporary arrangement (definitely no more than three issues) as Ken wants to make clear! That means we're on the lookout for a new Strider editor, please message Julian White at communications@ldwa.org.uk or Ken at editor@ldwa.org.uk for further information.

NEARLY THE LDWA 100!



Anyone wanting to enter this year's Trans-Pennine LDWA 100 has until 18 April 2022 to sign up, using the link at https://www.sientries.co.uk/event.php?elid=Y&event_id=8781. Above is the ceremonial handing over of the Colin A Wormwald trophy from Dave Morgan, the South Wales organiser (the event that never was) to Aaron Hookway, the Trans-Pennine organiser. We'll explain how Aaron has already excitedly decorated the trophy in a future newsletter, but there are some hints from the photo. The photos show a relieved Dave and a worried Aaron, but we know it'll be another memorable event! Any questions on the 100, please message Sara Dyer at 100scoordinator@ldwa.org.uk.

COMPETITION

This competition has been running on our social media this week, but all members can also enter by e-mail. Please send any submission to Stuart Bain at risk@ldwa.org.uk by 14 April 2022.

For some fun this week, tell us the best story of dining outdoors that you've had on a long walk (or short walk - we won't check!). Whether that's a cow somehow eating your cheese sandwiches or your friend taking their laptop bag instead of their lunch bag, let us know! We'll be picking the best five responses and the team at PACMAT will pick their favourite from those and the lucky winner can choose any item from their maps page at <https://rubbastuff.com/collections/ordnance-survey> so that they can plan their own picnic.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE OF VOLUNTEERING



50 years ago a small group of volunteers founded the LDWA &, since then, thousands of volunteers have helped the association grow into what it is today – the home of everything to do with walking long distances! Volunteers are vital to the sustainability of the LDWA – without them we wouldn't exist. Whether its leading one of our 1000 plus walks a year (in “normal” times), helping run one of our 42 local groups, organising one of our many challenge events (including our flagship 100), working as part of our IT or Communications team, delivering our AGM or supporting our LDP Database – everyone's time has benefited our members & contributed to our success. We have seen some outstanding examples of volunteering over the last 50 years!

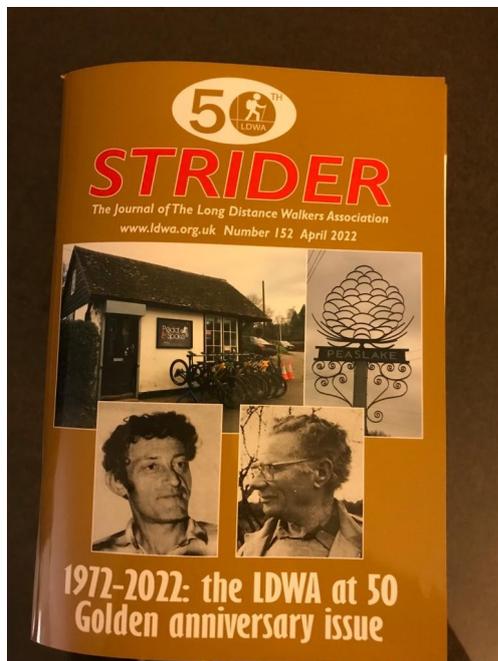
Our future success depends on volunteers continuing to come forward and to help members get an insight into the wide range of volunteering opportunities, we are developing a series of Volunteer Case Studies. We'd love to hear from you if you'd like to share your experience of volunteering with the LDWA. We've developed a simple template to complete which we'd be happy to work through with you. In the first instance, if you'd be interested in being part of this, please contact Karen Pickersgill at groups@ldwa.org.uk.

NEW ON-LINE MAGAZINE

We're launching a new on-line magazine in 2023, which won't be just replicating Strider on-line, it'll be about trying to promote the LDWA to a wider audience. We'll have interviews with members, national figures, other outdoor organisations, as well as more stories behind the walking. More information will be available on this throughout this year, but we're launching a new temporary site with content already being produced for us which we'll try and be ready to announce in the next newsletter.

Most importantly, if anyone wants to join our new team of writing volunteers, please contact Julian at communications@ldwa.org.uk.

STRIDER CONSULTATION



We're launching a widespread consultation of every member, as well as every group committee, this summer about the future content of Strider. This is so that the new editor to replace Ken (who, just to repeat, is only the temporary editor!) can have all the information they need about what our members find useful, what they want to see more of and some suggestions for the future. We launched a smaller consultation earlier this year of 250 members and found that really useful, thanks to those who replied. We gave some snapshot results out at the AGM weekend, including the most popular section, which is the puzzle page. Any comments about this consultation, please contact Julian at communications@ldwa.org.uk.

STRIDER

You should now have received your printed issue of Strider, but if you haven't, please send an e-mail to Julia Warman at membership@ldwa.org.uk. If you could quote your membership number and also what address you had expected your Strider to arrive at, that would be marvellous.