

## News from the NEC

### February 2022

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*Weybourne along Winter Poppyline route.*

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Don't forget – you can view updates and news as they arise by visiting the [news page](#) on the website.

## Message from the Chair

Julie has asked me to pass on her thanks for the messages and flowers received following the passing of her daughter, Tamsin. The funeral took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February, followed by a swim at Loch Ness one of Tamsin's favourite places, with family and friends.



## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is coming up soon. There is lots of information on the website at [AGM](#)

This includes reports from the National Executive Committee of the work over the last year and the latest edition of The Story So Far.

It will give you the opportunity to register to attend by zoom if you are not able to make it in person or give your votes by proxy to Madeleine at [secretary@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ldwa.org.uk) by 2nd March.

### *Friday evening workshop*

As you know Strider is one of our key forms of communication with members. We are very sorry that Simon Pipe has had to withdraw from the post of editor. Ken Falconer (Heart of Scotland) has agreed to step in as editor for a short time until a new editor can be found.

During this time, we are going to look at how Strider is produced and how it ties in with the other forms of communications that the LDWA use. There will be a workshop on Friday evening of the AGM weekend to discuss ideas for format and content of Strider. Do please come along or send in your ideas to Julian at [communications@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:communications@ldwa.org.uk). If you are interested in the role of editor, please contact Madeleine at [secretary@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ldwa.org.uk).

## Farewell to long serving NEC members

*Madeleine Watson*



Madeleine bows out as General Secretary which is a role that she has held since 2017, following an earlier stint on the NEC as the Events Secretary. Since joining the NEC in 2009, Madeleine's attention to detail and passion for the LDWA has been undiminished and it's fair to say that NEC members will miss hearing the word "numpty" being used in meetings and there will be a lot less tea being consumed. A constant support of David Morgan and Julie Cribb in their role as Chair, she will be much missed.

*Madeleine completing the Winter Poppyline Challenge Event.*

Graham brought his newspaper editorship skills to the role of Strider editor in 2017 and he has produced consistently excellent magazines for our members, always with his keen eye for interesting photos and stories. A strong advocate for Strider, he has ensured that the magazine has been written for members and by members, his guiding principle throughout. His move from Kent to Scotland has given him a new set of walking challenges and we wish him the very best in the future as he continues to explore the beautiful scenery of his new country.

*Graham Smith*



*Graham walking his dogs, Fen, Cal and Lark.*

## What's Coming Up In The Next Strider?

The April Strider – which members are due to get at the end of March - will be a bumper edition, as it will be the one marking the LDWA's 50th birthday.

It will feature stories looking back at how the LDWA was formed; our founders Alan Blatchford and Chris Steer; and how our membership, groups and events have developed and grown during that time.

It includes an article by Andrew Melling - one of our 200 founder members who joined in 1972 - and a story on Hannah Brandley - the granddaughter of co-founder Chris Steer - who has joined the LDWA and entered this year's flagship event, the Trans-Pennine 100.

Editor Graham Smith is working very hard to meet the Strider deadline!



*Hannah with, far left, brother Tom, who is Chris Steer's grandson. In the middle is Hannah's partner, Jamie, who has also joined the LDWA and has entered the T-P100.*

## Inclusivity

We remain focused on ensuring that we continue our work on inclusion and diversity. Much of this is looking at the welcome offered to new walkers and members, with a number of trials being undertaken by a large number of groups. These have included numerous groups offering shorter walks, or changing how they've advertised, as well as seven groups who have joined Meetup to see if that engages with a different demographic.

Mental health is an important part of our inclusion work and we are making funding available for one member from each group to take part in the Mental Health Awareness for Sport and Physical Activity Online Course offered by UK Coaching, please e-mail Julian at [communications@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:communications@ldwa.org.uk) if you might be interested in this.



We are reporting back on the ongoing inclusion and diversity at every AGM and groups' weekend and we're delighted at just how engaged so many groups have become in this.

## Challenge Events

Our challenge event calendar is now in full swing with many events being successfully run over the last month. We've highlighted a few of the events below, but if you want your event celebrated feel free to contact Julian at [communications@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:communications@ldwa.org.uk) with a brief summary and some photos.

### *Winter Poppyline 50*

The event was actually just over 51 miles and congratulations to everyone who finished and to those who didn't quite make it, but they had a good go and that's the main thing.

Jayne Cook was a marvellous organiser as ever and the marshals worked hard to ensure that everyone had a positive experience in the checkpoints and HQ. We also trust that entrants enjoyed the variety of terrain that North Norfolk has to offer, including the fine coastal views. The weather wasn't too bad, but the wind did pick up and that was mentioned by a fair few entrants.



*The catering team doing a fantastic job.*

On Twitter, @RobMarlinsUK said, "A fantastic weekend on the @norsuffLDWA Winter Poppyline. 50 miles of wonderful Norfolk scenery and coastline. Many thanks to the organisers and marshals that make the event run so well."

## Challenge Events (cont)

### Punchbowl Marathon



*Dimi Booth practising her yoga!*

The 52nd Punchbowl Marathon was held this year with a new route, new starting venue and extended car parking. The heavy rain forecast didn't arrive until midday allowing entrants to enjoy some of the splendid scenery for which the route is well known. COVID precautions were still in evidence with outdoor checkpoints, a one way registration system and a take away hot food and drinks at the end. Amazingly there were no retirements! A successful event enjoyed by entrants and marshals alike.

On Twitter, @St4rbug said *"I decided to join the #LDWA. Just ran my first event with them and was blown away with the quality of the aid stations. I've paid £100+ for races that weren't a patch on these guys. This event cost me £10. Speechless."*

## Membership

It's been a busy few months for our Membership Secretary, Julia Warman, with 726 new members joining us between October to January. The re-introduction of social walks and challenge events has meant our figures are looking healthy and so it will be interesting to monitor how this goes in the next few months.

If you haven't already, you can set up a direct debit to pay subscriptions annually and avoid all of the hassle of having to make payments each year!

## Volunteering for your LDWA

### *Communications*

After a really positive response from the last newsletter, we're continuing to look for volunteers within our communications team to help develop our new on-line magazine style website and we need more content, which means we're looking for volunteers to write it, volunteers to edit it and volunteers to make it look nice on-line.

If that's not enough, we would like more people to help promote this content on social media. This is an important part of our plan for future growth and to get our name out there, we don't like being one of walking's best kept secrets.

We're not advertising specific positions; we just want to hear from everyone who might be interested in helping. Even if just for an hour a week (or more if you can) we think we can find a role that would be interesting for you and that would be very helpful for us. Please e-mail Julian at [communications@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:communications@ldwa.org.uk) if you think you can help, just let us know what you're interested in the most.

### *Digital Transformation*

We're going through an exciting period of digital transformation. To meet the increasing demand for digital services we are in the process of redeveloping/replacing our existing operating systems. Late last year through a widespread consultation, we clearly defined all of our requirements and we are looking for volunteers with project management experience to help support us in delivering these.

A job specification is available via the [link](#). We'd be interested to hear from you even if you wish to only volunteer for a short period or to do elements of this role.

## Hill Walkers Register



*Nicky on Black Down,  
West Sussex Historic County Top.*

Nicky Wood from the Lakeland Group of the LDWA has recently taken over the work as recorder for the Hillwalkers' Registers. Nicky will be recording your achievements on the database, preparing the annual report for Strider and issuing certificates. You can view on the [register link](#)

Nicky is keen to encourage conversations about all things 'hilly' and recommends use of the website forums for this rather than Facebook where things quickly become lost in the flow. You can view the [forums](#) to start a conversation or contribute to an existing one.

## Better Planning Coalition

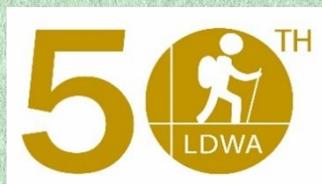
The Government are due to publish a 'Planning white paper' in May that could lead to the biggest changes in the English planning system for decades. There has been some concern from outdoor charities and organisations around what effect this may have on green spaces and climate change.

To protect the interests of long distance walking, we've agreed to join the Better Planning Coalition of eighteen members, including the Ramblers, Open Spaces Society, Campaign for National Parks and CPRE. At this stage, we don't know what the full implications of planning changes may have on long distance walking, so we will be acting as an observer during meetings.

If you wish to comment on proposals or have any other feedback you would like us to raise please contact Stuart at [environment@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:environment@ldwa.org.uk).

Link to more information - [Better Planning Coalition](#)

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events



The programme of anniversary events is varied, interesting, fun &, in some cases, they hold special significance to the group and its members.

The celebrations include;

- A wide range of social walks which are "50-themed", short & long, strenuous & easy, figures of 8, relays, stretch from dawn to dusk;

- Large sections of Long-Distance Paths;

- Challenge Events – old & new;

- Memorial walks;

- Family friendly events;

- Joint events with neighbouring groups;

- Celebratory lunches, dinners, BBQ's, coffee & cake afternoons;

- A boat trip from the Quay in Ipswich on the Lady Orwell;

- Bagging 50 Wainwrights over 5 days;

- A weekend away to celebrate; and

- 2 events which run throughout the year – an I-Spy challenge and a Malt Whisky distillery challenge.

The programme of events will continually be updated throughout the year and the calendar will be updated & published in August's Strider. Keep an eye on local group websites for further information.

## National Trails Register

Our National Trails Recorder, Ray Wilkes (West Yorkshire) has had yet another busy year recording walking achievements on all of our National Trails.

One particular achievement to highlight is that of Peter Singleton (Kent) for completing all of the 19 National Trails. Peter completed 7 trails this year including the 4 Scottish Trails in one monster backpacking trip of about 20 miles a day.



*Peter backpacking his way around the National Trails.*

Peter lives on the edge of Dartmoor and has completed the trails since retirement in 2013, also starting walking the Spanish Camino de Santiago (800 Km) in 2019. He has always backpacked, adding to the challenge.

## Social Walk Database

Our Social Walk Database is growing by the day! This is an excellent resource, in addition to the long distance path database for researching local walks, or even further afield!

We're continuing to work with groups, providing support and training for this to continue expanding. If you haven't already been contacted and you would like to learn more please contact Karen at [groups@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:groups@ldwa.org.uk) or Chris at [swcoordinator@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:swcoordinator@ldwa.org.uk)

## Tips from the Toolkit

This month's focus is on V for [volunteering and volunteer support](#). This section contains information on how we value our volunteers and details of free access to a resource hub for all our members by the NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations).

## The LDWA Archive: April 1985 Strider – A long distance path database?

*"As many members will know, Roger Smith, Editor of the Great Outdoors, recently proposed that a National Register of Long Distance Paths should be set up. The purpose of such a register would be to offer an advisory service to writers, publishers and official bodies/local authorities in advance of publication or designation of a route and its primary aim would be to minimise the potentially adverse effects of duplication of routes and to encourage path developers to avoid particularly sensitive areas.*

### *National Register of Long Distance Paths.*

*We welcomed this initiative and, as a result of several meetings, it has been decided to set up the Register as a joint venture between the Great Outdoors, the LDWA, the R.A., the Countryside Commission and Mark Richards.*

*Because of the nature of our activities and our resources, the LDWA is admirably placed to provide the information that would be required. We have, therefore, decided to develop a computer database on which would be stored information on all long distance paths and routes in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The database will be located at Flimwell using the newly acquired LDWA computer. The basic data will be collected through a questionnaire to interested parties, including LOWA local groups and from existing publications."*

Stuart is always seeking new archive material, especially photos. If you have any you wish to share, please contact Stuart at [risk@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:risk@ldwa.org.uk)

## Stat Attack: Website Usage

Demographics of individuals using our website from Feb 2021 to Feb 2022:

Comprising of 56% males, and 44% females.

Age Range	% Split
18-24	12%
25-34	22%
35-44	18%
45-54	19%
55-64	15%
65+	14%

## The 10-second Survey

Will you take a moment to answer our 10 second survey?

We'd love to hear from you about your favourite three long distance paths in the UK? If you wish, please share your reasons for them, as well as any interesting stories or photos of your experiences.

We'd like to share them on social media and/or our website.

Please email us at [survey@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:survey@ldwa.org.uk) with your answers.

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## That's it for this month!

Thanks for reading and if you have any ideas or suggestions to include within the newsletter, please let us know by contacting Julie at [chair@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:chair@ldwa.org.uk).



*The Beeston Bump. Also known as the Norfolk Himalayas.*

## Website Links:

[Long Distance Path Database](#)

[Challenge Events](#)

[Hill Walkers & National Trails Registers](#)

[Trans-Pennine 100](#)

[Toolkit](#)

[Shop](#)

[Discounts Page](#)

[Social Walks Database](#)

[Online Striders](#)

[Partner Retailers \(Affiliates\)](#)

## The National Executive Committee

Chair:	Julie Cribb	<a href="mailto:chair@ldwa.org.uk">chair@ldwa.org.uk</a>
General Secretary:	Madeleine Watson	<a href="mailto:secretary@ldwa.org.uk">secretary@ldwa.org.uk</a>
Treasurer:	John Elrick	<a href="mailto:treasurer@ldwa.org.uk">treasurer@ldwa.org.uk</a>
Membership:	Julia Warman	<a href="mailto:membership@ldwa.org.uk">membership@ldwa.org.uk</a>
Challenge Events Secretary:	Tim Glenn	<a href="mailto:events@ldwa.org.uk">events@ldwa.org.uk</a>
100s Coordinator:	Sara Dyer	<a href="mailto:100scoordinator@ldwa.org.uk">100scoordinator@ldwa.org.uk</a>
Communications:	Julian White	<a href="mailto:communications@ldwa.org.uk">communications@ldwa.org.uk</a>
Local Groups Secretary:	Karen Pickersgill	<a href="mailto:groups@ldwa.org.uk">groups@ldwa.org.uk</a>
IT and Internet:	Stuart Bain (interim)	<a href="mailto:internet@ldwa.org.uk">internet@ldwa.org.uk</a>
Environment:	Stuart Bain	<a href="mailto:environment@ldwa.org.uk">environment@ldwa.org.uk</a>
Strider Editor:	Graham Smith	<a href="mailto:editor@ldwa.org.uk">editor@ldwa.org.uk</a>
Long Distance Paths Officer	Iain Connell	<a href="mailto:ldp@ldwa.org.uk">ldp@ldwa.org.uk</a>

