



LDWA AGM WEEKEND



Village Hotel Maidstone

Castle View, Forstal Road,

Maidstone ME14 3AQ

13th to 15th March 2026

AGM Sunday, 15th March

Starts at 10am prompt

Coffee/tea and biscuits at 12.30pm

Hotel

The AGM Weekend is based at the
Village Hotel Maidstone.

Situated on the outskirts of the town,
close to junction 6 of the M20 and the River Medway.

Guest Speaker

John Pucknell

on “Galway to Nice on the E2 Trail; would a dodgy knee stop me?”

Attempting to walk from Land’s End to John O’Groats, John faced a major malfunction in the Scottish Highlands, when his left knee forced him to return home. Age related degeneration and the effects of an old injury were diagnosed, an affliction that would not get better, a depressing result for one in his mid-sixties. Not prepared to give in to old age John decided a longer walk was required. Having already completed the E4 across Europe, he chose as his target the E2 European Long Distance Path; this starts on the west coast of Ireland, before crossing Scotland, England, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France. A minor difficulty was the lack of an official route through Ireland, so he made one up. However, his biggest challenge would be crossing the rather high mountains on the famous GR5 south of Lake Geneva. But that was at the end of the trail, and who knew what might happen on the way?

Volunteer Awards

Announcement and Presentation of the Volunteer Awards
will take place during the Open Session of the AGM on Sunday.

If you wish to make a nomination for an award, please write or
email your nomination to our Secretary, Sarah Heal, at
secretary@ldwa.org.uk by Saturday, January 10th, 2026.

Friday

Registration / Arrival

at Village Hotel from 3pm

Confirm walk A, B or C.

Evening Meal

A Buffet meal will be served in the
Inspiration Suite from 7.00pm until 8.30pm.

Quiz

To be organized following the Buffet
by Steve and Pearl Smith of High Peak
and Norman Corrin of BBN.

Workshops

There will be a Workshop led by members of the
NEC on key areas of interest.
More details will be posted on the
Website nearer the time.

Saturday

Walks, all featuring the E2 Distance Path

A: 22 miles led by Penny Southern, Kent Secretary, leaving the hotel at 8.45am. Planned to go beside the River Medway then through Cobtree Manor Park up to follow the North Downs Way east to Thurnham Castle. Continuing along the ridge to a lunch stop at Hollingbourne. Returning via a lower route to finish beside the Medway. 2500ft ascent.

B: 15 miles led by Jim Briggs, Kent Treasurer, leaving the hotel at 9.15am. Planned to go down to the River Medway then through Cobtree Manor Park up to Kit's Coty (Neolithic tomb remains) and continue climbing up North Downs to Frith Wood, crossing fields to follow the North Downs Way east to Detling. Up North Downs to Whitehorse Park and Thurnham Castle and then lunch at Detling (your own picnic or pub option). Return via vineyards to finish beside the Medway River. 1500ft ascent

C: 9 miles led by Peter Jull, Kent Chair, leaving the hotel at 10am. Planned to go beside the River Medway then through Cobtree Manor Park up to Kit's Coty. Completing 900ft of ascent at the North Downs Way then returning via historic Aylesford and Allington Lock

Evening

Buffet Dinner in the Inspiration Suite
7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

After Dinner Speaker

John Pucknell on Galway to Nice
on the E2 Long Distance Footpath.

Sunday

Annual General Meeting

At 10.00am in The Inspiration Suite
Followed by Tea & Coffee.



Getting Involved

National Executive Committee Election

A ballot is held for the election of members to the National Executive Committee. This year we expect to have four vacancies. We warmly invite members to consider applying for these roles.

c. Environment Officer
b. General Secretary

c. Local Groups Officer
d. Long Distance Paths Officer

The deadline for applications is noon 17th January 2026 at
<https://www.mi-nominations.com/ldwa>

How to vote in the Committee Elections

Information on using our Annual General Meeting site, hosted by Mi-Voice, will be sent to members by email in 2026.

Voting for committee members takes place before the Annual General Meeting with a deadline this year of 1st March 2026.

You can vote online ahead of the meeting: using the electronic site that is hosted by Mi-Voice, the LDWA's secure online voting platform.

By post ahead of the meeting: If you need to vote by post (because you will be unable to use the online site), please contact secretary@ldwa.org.uk for more information.

How to vote for resolutions at the Annual General Meeting if you are unable to attend.

Voting for resolutions takes place **during** the meeting. Members who wish to vote personally at the meeting **should not submit an online vote in advance**.

Online ahead of the meeting: We hope that you will be able to attend the Annual General Meeting in person. If you cannot attend, you may appoint the Chair (or anyone else you appoint as your representative, so long as they can attend the meeting in person) to vote on your behalf. You can provide them with your voting instructions. This will be done through our online Annual General Meeting site, hosted by Mi-Voice. Full details and instructions will be included in the voting information we send in 2026. If you submit your vote online before the meeting you are appointing your proxy and therefore **do not vote again at the AGM**.

We are hoping to live stream the meeting so members can still tune in and follow along with what's happening.

By post ahead of the meeting: If you need to appoint a proxy by post (because you will be unable to use the online site), please contact secretary@ldwa.org.uk for more information.



Annual General Meeting 2026

The Annual General Meeting of the Long Distance Walkers Association
will be held at 10am on Sunday 15th March 2026
at the Village Hotel Maidstone

Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introduction from the Chair**, Apologies for absences.
2. **To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th March 2025.**
Proposer: Penny Southern, Seconder: Julian White.
Matters Arising from the Minutes.
3. **To receive the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2025 and the reports of the Officers and Accountants.**
4. **To receive reports as follows:**

a. Chair	e. Long Distance Paths Officer	h. Local Groups, including
b. General Secretary	f. <i>Strider</i> Editor	Challenge Events and
c. Membership	g. Environment Officer	Social Walks
d. IT and Internet Officer		i. Hundreds
5. **Resolution: To approve the appointment of the Accountants for the financial year 2025/26, and to authorise the Committee to fix their remuneration.**
Proposer: Elaine Oddie, Seconder: Sarah Heal.
6. **Resolution: To authorise the Committee to determine honoraria payments in accordance with past practice.**
Proposer: Elaine Oddie, Seconder: Sarah Heal.
7. **Resolution: To increase Membership Annual Subscription from 1st January 2027**
Proposal for the Individual subscription to be increased to £20, with Family membership at 150% of the Individual rate. There will be no reduction for payment by Direct Debit. The Committee may approve an increase by the annual inflation rate (based on CPI on previous September) each January thereafter.
Proposer: Elaine Oddie, Seconder: Julian White.
8. **To note the result of the 2026 NEC Election**

a. Environment Officer	c. Local Groups Officer
b. General Secretary	d. Long Distance Paths Officer

End of formal business

Open forum and discussion.

This session provides an opportunity for Members to raise topics they would like the Committee to consider during the coming year. Members may submit written questions in advance, up until **9am on Monday 9th March 2026**.

Additional matters may also be raised during the meeting; however, please note that the Committee may not be able to respond to all questions immediately if further information is required.

Please be aware that minutes **from this meeting will be published on the LDWA website** and will be accessible to members.

Sarah Heal, General Secretary, on behalf of the National Executive Committee.

Some of the sights you might see over the weekend.



North Downs Way marker in Westfield Wood, visited on the A and B walks.

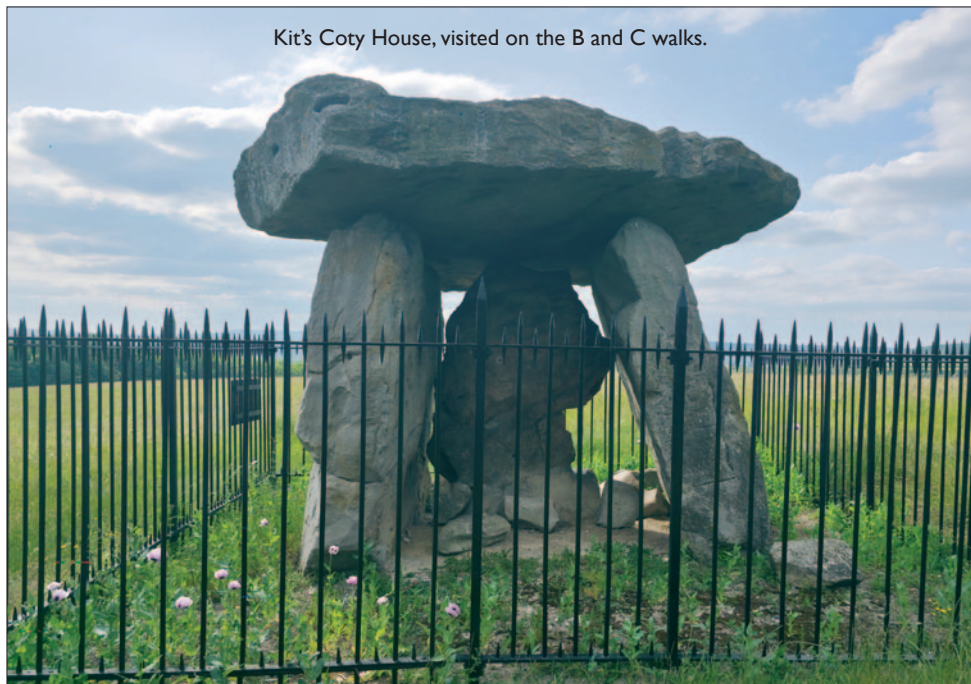
River Medway at Maidstone.



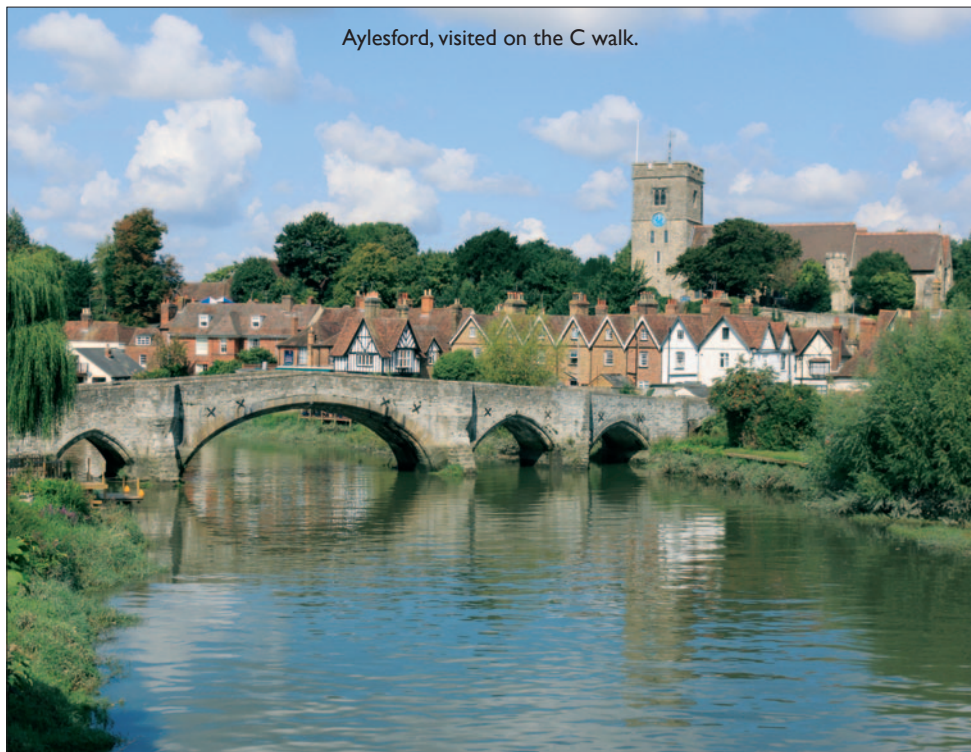
Thurnham Castle, visited on the A and B walks.



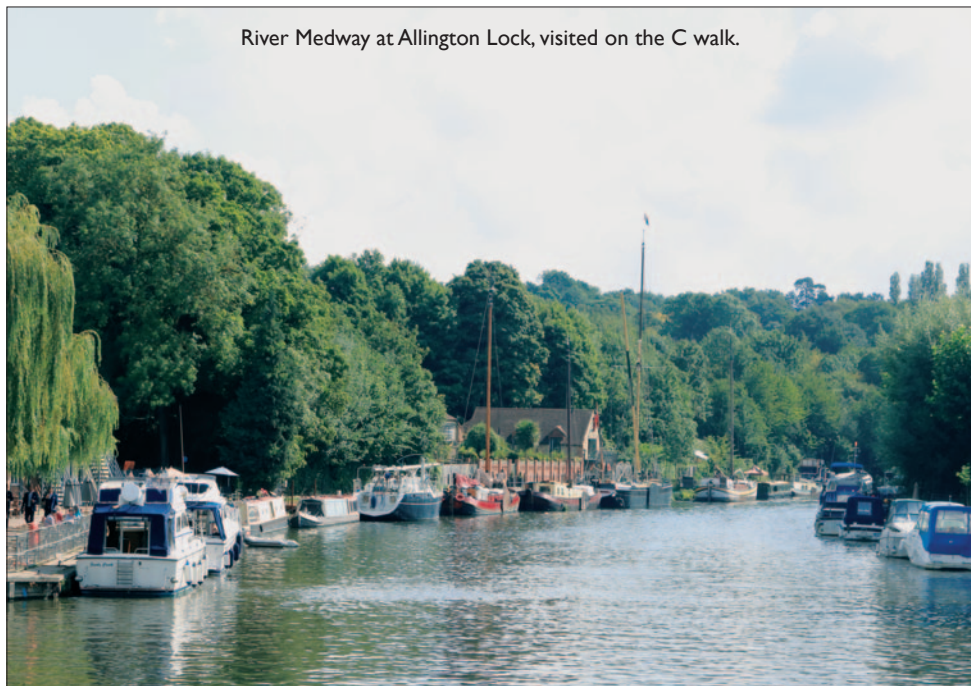
Kit's Coty House, visited on the B and C walks.



Aylesford, visited on the C walk.



River Medway at Allington Lock, visited on the C walk.



The North Downs at Thurnham.



Booking Form

LDWA AGM SOCIAL WEEKEND 2026 (13th to 15th March)

SEND to Gavin Fuller, 12 Archers Court, 13a Nottingham Road, SOUTH CROYDON, Surrey. CR2 6LN, together with a cheque (made payable to The Long Distance Walkers Association Ltd) or

EMAIL: agm@ldwa.org.uk with payment via BACS

to Account No. 45805717, Sort code: 53-61-30, putting your name and AGM in the reference box.

Please do not book direct with the hotel.

Room Type	Per Room, B&B Thursday	Per Person (2 nights) Friday/Saturday Dinner, B&B	Per Room, B&B Sunday	Total
Single	£70.00	£160.00	£70.00	
Twin	£80.00*	£100.00*	£80.00*	
Double	£80.00*	£100.00*	£80.00*	

Single Room |

Twin Room (*Price dependent on two people per room)

| 2

I would like to share with another member Yes/No

Name (if known).....

Double Room (*Price dependent on two people per room) Names:

| 2

Please return no later than 16th February 2026

Please note that Thursday and Sunday Nights are priced per room Bed and Breakfast only.



Walks / Outing Form

Send to Gavin Fuller, 12 Archers Court, 13a Nottingham Road,
SOUTH CROYDON, Surrey CR2 6LN

Email: agm@ldwa.org.uk

Name:

Address:

.....

Postcode:.....Telephone:

Email:

	Person 1	Person 2
Name (as you wish it to appear on badge)		
Local Group		
Membership Number		
Are you planning to do one of the planned walks on the Saturday? Please indicate which A, B, or C		
Are you not staying at the hotel but intending to attend the AGM? If so please indicate to the right. There are a limited number of spaces available to also attend the Saturday dinner – please note if you'd like one of these. These will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.		

Please return no later than 16th February 2026

