

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 2021

Well it has been another of those Chinese curse years – may you live in interesting times!

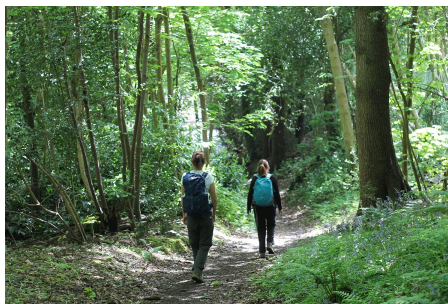
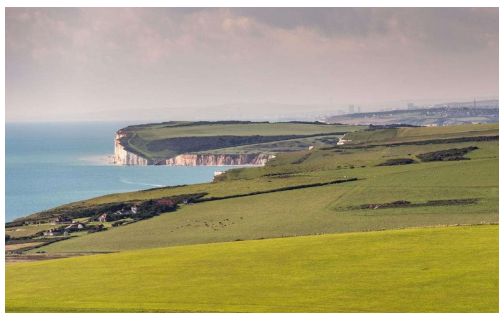
The walking world is slowly getting back to normal; proper (not just virtual) challenge walks are slowly returning to our diaries, social walks now have no restrictions on numbers and we can even get back to pub lunches. But arranging any walking trips abroad still require negotiating the Covid regulation minefield. Naturally attitudes have changed; and in common with many other LDWA groups there are now more picnickers and less pub goers.

It is a very good sign that this AGM has been able to get back to the walk, lunch and AGM format that has proved popular in the past. But in case anyone is reluctant to spend too much time indoors at the moment then we have expanded the walk to be part of the informal AGM; a walk and talk session.

Chris Kennedy our walks organiser has again done a fantastic job in keeping the walking programme alive and well. He has continued our programme of walks every 2 weeks but he has started trialling a once a month shorter walk of 12- 14 miles to encourage those new to the LDWA, recovering from injury etc. Our main programme will always continue to be the usual LONG distance social walk.

If you have any walk you may have discovered in lockdown that you would now like to share with us all, please contact Chris so that you can discuss including this on our programme.

Here are a selection of photos from last year's social walks to tempt you out in 2022



Our Christmas walk went back to our usual format of walk and then lunch, again ably organised by Chris, even surmounting the challenge of the original lunch venue demanding an extortionate deposit so that he had to rearrange the whole walk.

Last year we again did not run either of our usual challenge events, but Sussex members were out marshalling and walking the first 'real' challenge event of 2021 in the country; Kent's Andredsweald event. We then ran the hot meal checkpoint on the Surrey Tops 50 mile event in September. We are now well on the way with organising the 2022 South Downs Marathon on 24 April 2022. We only wanted to run our South Downs Marathon if it could be held in the usual LDWA manner with welcoming village hall checkpoints and food and that was just not possible last year.

Just a final reminder – this LDWA group is yours – please help us make it a success by letting us know what works well, what does not, what you would like to see happen in the future. We will chat with you during the walk and let you know about some of the new ideas; such as GPX files for past social walks.

and even more finally – next year is the LDWA 50th – lets make it a success.