

## A COVENTRY WAY ASSOCIATION – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

<b>Venue</b>	Swimming Pool Classroom, King Henry VIII School, CV3 6AQ
<b>Attendees</b>	John Alymer, Bob Brandon, Roger Brown, Bob Carey, Trevor Cornfoot, Bill Eve, Colin & Ann Kirkham, Roger Ladbury, Nick Meynell, Debbie Morse, Ken Nicholas, Bob Rainsley, Doug Shelton, Barry Swain, Frank Tonkinson, Stan Veasey, Anne Wade, Bob Watson.
<b>Apologies</b>	Greta Greenall
<b>Welcome, Health and Safety</b>	Bob Brandon welcomed the attendees and thanked everyone for their attendance. Many thanks to Debbie Morse for booking the venue and for providing delicious refreshments. Bob introduced our speaker...
<b>Talk</b>	<p>Julia Singleton-Tasker gave us an interesting talk with slides (attached) about the Community Rail Partnership, with which she is involved, and, in particular the Rail and Ramble initiative. Cyril Bean's aim was: TO MAKE THE COUNTRYSIDE AVAILABLE TO ALL. Clearly, Rail and Ramble would have met with Cyril's approval!</p> <p>A donation of £50 has been made to her chosen charity: Tommy's, which researches possible causes and finds treatments for miscarriage, stillbirth and premature birth.</p> <p><b>Rail and Ramble:</b> a number of stations can easily be incorporated into some of our circular walks. Anne has already sent a route description and GPX map of Walk 2 to Julia (including HS2 diversions). See attached. Rail and Ramble walks could also be included on our website?</p>
<b>Minutes of AGM 2019</b>	These are on the ACWA website. The 2020 'AGM' was held on Zoom.
<b>Matters Arising</b>	None.
<b>Chairman's Report</b>  <b>Bob Brandon</b>	<p>Given the pandemic it might be thought that there has been little going on for our Association in the past 24 months. Read on:</p> <p>Early in 2020 we were preparing for the annual challenge in April that year. We had a full entry of 250 with plenty on the waiting list. All the usual venues and helpers were lined up to put on a successful event. However, on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Anne; Bob Carey; Ken; John Aylmer and myself met in Anne's kitchen. The outcome being to postpone the event until April 2021.</p> <p>Early in 2021 we had another go to put the Challenge on that April. All the venues were ready. Again, it was not to be. Whereby the Challenge was moved on to 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022. Early next year preparations will be consolidated to ensure that the event can happen. But who knows with Omicron having made an appearance?</p> <p>Throughout this time HS2 has been progressing and making a significant impact on the A Coventry Way route and several of the associated 21 walks. Bob C, Anne and I have been attending online meetings hosted by Solihull Council to which HS2 and their contractors</p>

	<p>Balfour Beatty have been attending, together with representatives from Heart of England Way, Ramblers Association and other footpath overseers. The group seem to understand that - apart from a general concern regarding the constant willy-nilly closure of footpaths - that we too have an interest in knowing what is possible for the Challenge on April 3<sup>rd</sup> next year.</p> <p>To this end ACWA were appointed a Balfour Beatty engineer to talk us through what will be possible for the challenge. I will leave it to Bob C to elaborate on this later in his report.</p> <p>Trevor Cornfoot has suggested that in time the Association should be able to make a case for modest monies from HS2, to update and reprint the Circular Walks booklet and the 40-mile route descriptor and support a reopened Challenge. This, once it is clear which rights of way will reopen and which are to be diverted (a couple of years away, yet?).</p> <p>Throughout, members (in particular, Anne in 'great detail') have been reporting back on finding HS2 changes along the ACW and 21 footpath routes. Roger Ladbury has done a wonderful job of keeping our web site up to date with these footpath changes.</p> <p>There have been a few working parties performing ad-hoc works including those by the 'Leg-ends'.</p> <p>In September 2021, we were able to have a presence at the Godiva Festival where Barry Swain masterminded the presentation. And through Barry's selling expertise, the Association managed to sell several 21 walks books and ACW green booklets. Thank you to those who came along to help. A first opportunity to meet up for most.</p> <p><b>Constitution</b></p> <p>Following the 2019 AGM, Anne and Trevor worked on bringing our Constitution up to date. This was in the back of my mind until last week. Unfortunately, the proposed constitution cannot be approved by those present this evening, as a suitable period of notice has not been given to the membership. My plan is in February to have a Special General Meeting to approve the proposed constitution. This will be alongside a Pre-challenge meeting for helpers.</p> <p>The Constitution will be sent in good time.</p> <p>That's about all I have to say, other than to thank everyone for keeping A Coventry Way in their lives.</p>
<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p><b>John Aylmer</b></p>	<p>We hold our funds in the Santander Bank and the Coventry Building Society and a small Cash float. Copies of the accounts were circulated. This year our total funds have decreased to £16162.72, which is considerably down on 2019. This is mainly due to Challenge expenses of £2572.03, which reflect monies spent and deposits made in advance of the postponed 2020 &amp; 2021 events.</p> <p>A big "thank-you" to Bob Rainsley for auditing the books.</p>

<p><b>Challenge Coordinator Report</b></p> <p><b>Ken Nicholas</b></p>	<p><b>CHALLENGE 2022 (Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April)</b></p> <p>We have the following entries at present:- Solo 244, Relays 9, Reserved 26 (these are for Princethorpe College as per usual).</p> <p>These have all been transferred from the cancelled 2021 event, many of which had already been transferred from the cancelled 2020 event. The transfer was greatly assisted by new and improved facilities on SiEntries.</p> <p>In addition, we also have 65 hopefuls on the Waiting List. 2 of these are relay teams. All but 7 of these have also been transferred from the cancelled 2021 event.</p> <p>In the next few days, I will be contacting all entrants to seek confirmation of their intent to participate and to let us know, as soon as possible, if this changes.</p> <p>Whilst we aim to get 250 starters, I will seek, as usual, to maintain an entry level of around 280, which allows for the inevitable “no shows” on the day.</p>
<p><b>Working Party Coordinator Report</b></p> <p><b>Bob Carey</b></p>	<p>With Covid putting a stop to all of our regular third Wednesday of the month meetings, during the first few months of 2020 and indeed 2021, normal practice fell apart. The fact that neither Warwickshire nor Solihull no longer supply us with work has added to the lack of progress. So it has basically been down to individuals using our 21 walks book to let us know of any problems. I also have to admit that I am no longer as active in that way nowadays as, being in need of a new hip, my walks are now few and far between. We did however get a report from one of our “readers/walkers”, who informed me of a dangerous footbridge on Walk 13 approaching Hopsford Springs. I went out there to check it out myself and indeed it was in a bad state and walkers could so easily fall into the deep ditch that this bridge crossed. It needed some new lengths of timber to completely replace what was left of the bridge and so I informed Warwickshire CC and offered them a working party if they could supply us with the required timber. I was told to wait until one of their rangers visited the site, which I did. A few weeks later, Bob Brandon was out that way on one of his walks and came across the same bridge which had by then been totally replaced with new timbers. Not a word from Warwickshire to say that they had done the work!!</p> <p>Another report from a walker using our book was that the enclosed path leading down to Lentons Lane on route A of Walk 15 was badly overgrown. Both Alan Townsend and myself on separate occasions had been out to that particular site in the past to cut back the undergrowth, but unfortunately the locals don’t seem at all interested in keeping it open. Even though, after our working party had done a good job of clearing the path, we met a dog walker who thanked us</p>

after we had finished. It's a pity that some locals have to rely on people such as ourselves, who live nowhere near, to keep "their path" suitably cleared for them.

On one of my rare walks out into the countryside I was in the company of friends from Warwickshire Athletic Association using paths on Walk 7. On reaching the road close to point (2) we found that both the kissing gate and the sleeper bridge over the ditch was badly overgrown with brambles and such, and the slope up to the road after crossing the bridge was rather slippery. In fact, had we been walking in the opposite direction, it would have been quite dangerous as the undergrowth forced walkers almost off the edge of the bridge into the ditch. So I arranged a working party of four a week or so later where we did all the clearance required and installed some steps so as to avoid the dangerous slippery slope down to the bridge. When the job was done, Bill and myself walked up the road to point (2) and decided that it was just as "dodgy" there as where we had just been working. So we decided to come back a week or so later and did the same thing there, with Bill, Barry and myself installing steps and putting in a small bridge at the bottom of the ditch. From there we moved on to Motslow Hill on Walk 6 where we knew that a way mark post had "disappeared". I had prepared a new post to put in, but while walking through the narrow spinney next to the main road, we discovered the original post which some kind person had taken from the correct position on the path, and laid down in the woods. I guess it takes all sorts.

This basically sums up all of the work done by any form of working parties during 2021, though I must point out that Frank Tonkinson, Doug Shelton, Terry Lewins and Trevor Cornfoot, (the Leg Ends) have done regular checks on their designated walks, and made sure that they are fit to walk.

With our annual Challenge hopefully taking place in April of next year, we do need to be aware of any problems on the **whole** of the 40-mile route. So I would like to ask you all to try and check out at least your own particular stretch of A Coventry Way. That is of course the part of A Coventry way that touches the walk that you have "against your name". I have to admit here that I myself have not checked out any of the three walks against my name for a long time now. But I will make a point of checking out at least that part of them that are part of ACW. But for this coming Challenge, because of the chaos around the paths in the Greenway area caused by the work for HS2, we are going to need to use a completely different route away from the Greenway altogether. This has yet to be finalised, though we do now have a pretty good idea of where the route will go. It will of course mean putting out brand new "A Coventry Way" signage as well as almost

	<p>certainly needing to do some clearance in some places. So straight after Christmas I will be sending out requests for volunteers for a few working parties. Because we are now down to no more than six of us who tend to take part in the working parties, I will be abandoning the old "Third Wednesday of the month" idea, and will be just trying to find the day which will suit most of us.</p> <p>I think this concludes all I have to say about working parties in 2021. Take care all and have a lovely Christmas.</p>																
<p><b>Book Sales</b></p> <p><b>Bill Eve</b></p>	<p>21 Walks book sales.</p> <p>Last 12 months 38 books</p> <p>Previous months 67 books</p> <p>Current remaining stock 49 books</p> <p>Selling the remaining "21 Walks books" through our main selling outlets is not currently feasible, due to inaccuracies caused by HS2. It would damage our ACWA reputation. Selling face-to-face the inaccuracies can be emphasised and purchasers advised to check the website. Need to keep website updated – Anne will endeavour to send Roger the appropriate information.</p>																
<p><b>Election of Committee</b></p>	<p>2022 Committee:</p> <table> <tr> <td>President</td> <td>Ivy Bean</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chairman</td> <td>Bob Brandon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice-Chairman</td> <td>John Green</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Anne Wade</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>John Aylmer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Working Party Coordinator</td> <td>Bob Carey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Challenge Entry Coordinator</td> <td>Ken Nicholas</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Webmaster</td> <td>Roger Ladbury</td> </tr> </table>	President	Ivy Bean	Chairman	Bob Brandon	Vice-Chairman	John Green	Secretary	Anne Wade	Treasurer	John Aylmer	Working Party Coordinator	Bob Carey	Challenge Entry Coordinator	Ken Nicholas	Webmaster	Roger Ladbury
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<p><b>Other Specific Duties</b></p>	<table> <tr> <td>Challenge Committee</td> <td>Bob Brandon, Anne Wade, Bob Carey, Ken Nicholas, John Aylmer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Auditor</td> <td>Bob Rainsley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Book Sales</td> <td>Bill Eve</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Facebook</td> <td>Nick Meynell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geocaching</td> <td>Keith Greenall</td> </tr> </table> <p>Both Nick and Roger would be very grateful for any news, photos and information about any ACWA activities for posting onto Facebook and our Website.</p>	Challenge Committee	Bob Brandon, Anne Wade, Bob Carey, Ken Nicholas, John Aylmer	Auditor	Bob Rainsley	Book Sales	Bill Eve	Facebook	Nick Meynell	Geocaching	Keith Greenall						
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<p><b>Footpath Updates</b></p> <p><b>Anne Wade</b></p>	<p>The impact of HS2 continues to be of concern and work on this project is ongoing. Any changes to the footpaths on the west side of Coventry, in particular our Circular Walks, have been updated on our website.</p> <p>A new 'shared route' Greenway has been constructed on the south-west side of the 'old' Greenway. The 'old' Greenway has been completely obliterated between Burton Green and Berkswell and is subject to massive earthworks. All footpaths on the north-east side of the new Greenway are now closed.</p>																

	<p>In addition, HS2 works around North/South Cubbington Wood have also caused the closure of paths significant to our walks. Thus, Walks 2 to 7 are affected. Some of the ‘diversions’ have resulted in walking along roads with no pavement and are not ideal at all.</p> <p>For our Challenge route, we have identified a suitable diversion to avoid the Greenway. The main cause for concern is the path from Kenilworth Golf Course to the A46, via Kingswood Farm. The only diversion is a horrible walk along Dalehouse Lane. Our contact at Balfour Beatty has assured us that, even if this path is closed in April, it will be open just for the day on a temporary basis. Fingers crossed!</p> <p>Apart from these closures, many paths are overgrown and require the usual clearance efforts.</p> <p>Walk 20: the bridge over the A45 near the end of the walk (paragraph 7) will be closed to allow strengthening works to take place. The time scale is unknown, however, and the bridge may still be open to pedestrians. A diversion will be suggested as required.</p> <p>Please report any further findings or path problems/changes to any committee member.</p>
<p><b>EBB 100 2023</b></p> <p><b>Anne Wade</b></p>	<p>In 2023 the annual flagship event of the Long Distance Walkers’ Association will be held in Birmingham, Coventry and Warwickshire, making use of our extensive canal system, as well as surrounding footpaths and bridleways. The event is called the Elephant, Bear and Bull 100. The main event will be held over the weekend of Sat 27<sup>th</sup> – Mon 29<sup>th</sup> May, with a marshals’ event on Sat 29<sup>th</sup> April – Mon 1<sup>st</sup> May. Plans for the event are now well underway: the route is finalised, HQ and checkpoint venues have been booked etc etc.</p> <p>ACWA will be running Checkpoint 8 at Old Milverton Village Hall. This is at approx. 50 miles. There will be access from 1900 on the Saturday for setting up and resting. The CP will be open to walkers from 2200 to 0800 on the Sunday. After cleaning, the CP will be vacated at approx. 0900. We will be looking for volunteers to work in shifts between these times.....</p> <p>As Route Organiser, I would also welcome volunteers to check and make comments on my draft Route Description!!</p>
<p><b>A.O.B.</b></p>	<p>ACWA Christmas cards are currently at the printers.....</p>