

A COVENTRY WAY ASSOCIATION – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 29th NOVEMBER 2022

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| Venue | Swimming Pool Classroom, King Henry VIII School, CV3 6AQ |
| Attendees | John Alymer, Bob Brandon, Roger Brown, Bob Carey, Trevor Cornfoot, Bill Eve, Greta Greenall, Richard & Sally Hicks, Michael Jones, Debbie Morse, Bob Rainsley, Doug Shelton, Barry Swain, Frank Tonkinson, Anne Wade. |
| Apologies | Miranda Aston, Keith Greenall, Roger Ladbury, Ken Nicholas, Alan Townsend, Ulli Ull. |
| Welcome, Health and Safety | 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... |
| Talk Trevor Cornfoot | ‘Friends of the War Memorial Park’ A wonderful insight into the history of the park and the ‘Friends’ activities. As a regular user of the park over the last 28 years and, for some of us, a lot longer than that (!), it is really important to give something back and I would encourage everyone to become a ‘Friend’. Please contact Trevor or visit: http://www.fwmpcoventry.org.uk/ |
| Minutes of AGM 2021 | These are on the ACWA website. Copies provided by email to all AGM invitees. |
| Matters Arising | None. |
| Chair’s Report Bob Brandon | Sadly, we have lost several members through the year. These include Peter Page, John Green, Iris Bean, Bob Watson and Stan (Kim) Veasey. Each, very different people, who have been part the heart of A Coventry Way. They are greatly missed. More positive news is that, in April, we were able to stage the Challenge, having missed two years thanks to the covid pandemic. At the time of the event, we were full, including many who had rolled over their entry each missing year. This had meant additional work keeping track of the monies and the entries over the 3 years. The Challenge was a success, thanks to our volunteers. At the post-Challenge meeting, it was thought time for change. Accommodation at the Queen’s Head is not satisfactory. It was decided to investigate use of the Heart of England Social Club in Berkswell Road as an indoors Start and Finish. This would mean minor tinkering with the Challenge route. Don’t worry, the original ACW is still King. Also, following feedback from those taking part and the feeling of those present at the meeting, it was decided to investigate reducing the number of Checkpoints from 7 to 5 and attempt to have an 8-mile distance between each. There was consultation with those involved in |

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| | <p>the 2022 Challenge. Outcome is that the 2023 Challenge (April 2nd) checkpoints are as follows: Start/Finish HoESC, Berkswell Road C/p 1 Cryfield Grange Road C/p 2 Bubbenhall Village Hall C/p 3 Brinklow Scout Hut C/p 4 Barnacle Village Hall C/p 5 Breach Oak Lane I am grateful to those who have manned the now defunct checkpoints faithfully for so many years. Hopefully, personnel will avail themselves for other duties on April 2nd. Thanks also to those who have been part of the ad-hoc working parties along the Way and the 21 Walks. And thanks to those who turned out at the Godiva Festival. I have not mentioned the ogre of HS2. However, I can end with positive news that HS2 have offered to print the Green book for the 2023 Challenge.</p> |
| <p>Secretary's Report Anne Wade</p> | <p>Nothing to report. However, I am always happy to add anyone onto our membership list. It's free and you will get a Christmas card!!! Again, being a member and contributing to our activities is a great way of giving something back to the countryside, which we all love.</p> |
| <p>Treasurer's Report John Aylmer</p> | <p>We hold our funds in the Santander Bank and the Coventry Building Society and a small Cash float. Since our last AGM in 2021, our total funds have seemingly decreased from £16,162 to £14,708. However, these figures are somewhat misleading... Traditionally, our Challenge entries have started (and usually finished) in September, so the money from these is included in that year's funds. This year, Challenge entries opened in November. Annual figures run from November to October, so this year's entries are not yet included. Book sales are more or less on hold until our Circular Walks can be updated. Main costs: Challenge £2,870, Donations £900, Printing & Postage £190. Interest figures are minimal: Santander (£8,200) has increased 7p per month to 70p per month! I would like to thank all members of the Association, who have made my work easier by promptly providing information re invoices and receipts. A big "thank-you" to Bob Rainsley for auditing the books. Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New HQ cost versus the Queens Head cost. Queens Head cost |

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| | <p>was £500. New HQ cost is £10 per hour, ie £170 total. Win-win!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T-shirts quote has increased – now only making 50p per T-shirt, but that’s fine. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Working Party Coordinator Report Bob Carey</p> | <p>Due to my mobility issues (old, then new hip!), there have been no formal working parties this year. We are now relying on ACWA members & members of the public informing us of any issues via the website & passed on by Roger. Last year there was clearance of the ‘new route’ enclosed path up to Benton Green Lane and around Birchley Hayes Wood. I still have all the ACWA tools....</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Book Sales Bill Eve</p> | <p>Some books sold at Godiva with explanations of changes in the paths due to HS2 etc. Unfortunately, books are now largely out-of-date & need serious work before reprinting new ones. Books in stock December 2021 = 49. Books in stock November 2022 = 31. Total sales in 2022 = 18. Remaining books do not contain any supplementary pages. We do not supply traditional sales outlets due to inaccuracies. Walkers are advised to check website for any updates as they arise.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Challenge Coordinator Report Ken Nicholas</p> | <p>CHALLENGE 2023 (Sunday 2nd April) 2023 Challenge now fully subscribed with 40 on the waiting list.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Election of Committee</p> | <p>2023 Committee:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Chair</td> <td>Bob Brandon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Anne Wade</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>John Aylmer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Challenge Entry Coordinator</td> <td>Ken Nicholas</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Working Party Coordinator & Local Authority Coordinator</td> <td>Vacant</td> </tr> </table> | Chair | Bob Brandon | Secretary | Anne Wade | Treasurer | John Aylmer | Challenge Entry Coordinator | Ken Nicholas | Working Party Coordinator & Local Authority Coordinator | Vacant | | |
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| Secretary | Anne Wade | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Treasurer | John Aylmer | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Challenge Entry Coordinator | Ken Nicholas | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <p>Other Volunteers</p> | <table> <tr> <td>Route Coordinator</td> <td>Anne Wade</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Website Administrator</td> <td>Roger Ladbury</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Facebook</td> <td>Nick Meynell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Auditor</td> <td>Bob Rainsley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Book Sales</td> <td>Bill Eve</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HS2</td> <td>Trevor Cornfoot</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> | Route Coordinator | Anne Wade | Website Administrator | Roger Ladbury | Facebook | Nick Meynell | Auditor | Bob Rainsley | Book Sales | Bill Eve | HS2 | Trevor Cornfoot |
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| <p>ACWA President</p> | <p>Son and daughter of Iris and Cyril Bean have been approached – would be willing to become a joint presidency. Nicky: “I would be very pleased to. It will be a great way to keep in touch with people and an event we care about.” Duncan: “It would be an honour. Thanks to ACWA for keeping Mum and Dad’s legacy alive.” Proposed by Greta Greenall. Seconded by Ken Nicholas.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| <p>Route Coordinator</p> <p>Anne Wade</p> | <p>I have spent a lot of time out on the route and working on two new GPX files and Route Descriptions. These went onto the website in time for Challenge entries opening on 1st November.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Coventry Way Challenge Route – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new HQ (start/finish) at Heart of England Social Club + 5 checkpoints as indicated above; HQ to CP1, including amended route from HQ & new route as last year via Reeves Green, Bockendon Grange & around edge of Warwick Uni (permission gained); CP1-CP2, via cycleway & HS2 diversion, & old route from Kenilworth Greenway (need to keep checking HS2 crossing footpath through Kingswood Farm and roadworks at A46 junction); CP2-CP3, including new route through Ryton via playing fields and through the wood in Wolston, rather than along the ends of the cul-de-sacs (no need to visit Community Centre), Brinklow motte & baileys already excluded last year; CP3-CP4, all via old route. CP4-CP5, including new route through Bedworth (no need to visit private house) and new route through the new housing estate to exit onto Astley Lane further down (hopefully close to the brook), which is much safer; CP5- HQ, all via old route with amendment to return to HQ from Eaves Green Lane. 2. Cyril Bean Anytime Route – traditional start at The Queens Head and keeping in the motte & baileys at Brinklow; otherwise, same as above. <p>Hopefully those visiting the website will not get confused!!</p> <p>It was important to get the routes onto the website in time for entries opening in order to ensure that participants receiving the route receive the correct route!! Last year there was a significant number of participants who did not follow the new route (mostly runners). Instead, they continued down Hodgetts Lane, turned right on Cromwell Lane, then left down Red Lane & joined the Greenway from there into Kenilworth. This cut at least a mile off the route and it is so much easier (though boring!!). Finishing times were therefore incomparable. Hopefully, the location of CP1 next year will also help participants to follow the new route!</p> <p>Apart from keeping an eye on the route and amending the GPX / RD as necessary (enforced changes), I will revisit the safety management plan and risk assessment prior to April. We will be considering the use of trackers for 2024.....</p> <p>I have purchased 200 new waymark discs and 200 new stickers for waymarking around the route, including the new sections & replacing</p> |
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| | <p>missing/broken waymarks.</p> <p>In the New Year, I will be earmarking paths, which need clearance or 'furniture' repair. Vaughan and I will try to sort as many of these as possible, but help is always appreciated!!</p> <p>Once EBB100 is over, I will concentrate more time on the 21 Circular Walks, which are in dire need of updating. A suitable summer focus!!!</p> |
| <p>EBB 100 2023</p> <p>Anne Wade</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 & cycleways, 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 27th – Mon 29th May, with a marshals' event on Sat 29th April – Mon 1st May. Plans for the event are now well underway: the HQ, CPs & route are finally finalised!!</p> <p>https://ldwa.org.uk/2023Hundred</p> <p>ACWA will be running Checkpoint 12 on the main event at Heart of England Social Club, Meriden (yes, the very same venue as ACW HQ!!). This is at approx. 80 miles. There will be access from 1700 on Saturday 27th May for setting up and resting/sleeping (or going home & coming back). However, if there is a booking on the Saturday evening, we may have to wait to set up from around 0400 (yikes!). The CP itself will be open to walkers from 0530 to 0000 on Sunday 28th. After cleaning, the CP will be vacated asap. The opening times are not too dissimilar to those for ACW Challenge!! Everything to run the CP will be provided for us, including paperwork & food.</p> <p>We are looking for volunteers to work in shifts between these times..... I have the start of a list (many thanks to my family, Bob Brandon, Bob Carey, Ken Nicholas, Bob Rainsley & Sheila, Debbie Morse & family, John Aylmer). Obviously, the more volunteers that we have, the less work there is for individuals to do. The plan is to have a meeting for CP volunteers after the ACW Challenge in early May.</p> <p>As Route Organiser for the event, I have also completed the GPX file, Route Description and Route risk assessment. If anyone would like to check out the route description for any part of the route, please let me know. It is most useful to have people unfamiliar with a particular area to check it out.</p> |
| <p>Rail Trails</p> <p>Michael Jones</p> | <p>Michael updated us on this initiative started last year & leading on from the talk we received at last year's AGM. The name was changed from Rail and Ramble to Rail Trails to acknowledge input from other organisations, like ACWA and LDWA, ie not just the Ramblers!!</p> <p>It's the Heart of England Community Rail Partnership and they published one walk from each station in the area in September 2022. The quality of the leaflets is pretty impressive!</p> |

Both Michael and I contributed to the walks. Hopefully, next summer we'll be able to provide more than one walk from each station, thus offering a choice...

<https://www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/>