

A COVENTRY WAY ASSOCIATION – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 28th NOVEMBER 2023

Joint Presidents – Nicky Drury and Duncan Bean

Venue	Swimming Pool Classroom, King Henry VIII School, CV3 6AQ 7pm
Attendees	John Aylmer, Bob Brandon, Roger Brown, Bob Carey, Tony Duckett, Michael Jones, Debbie Morse, Ken Nicholas, Bob Rainsley, Doug Shelton, Barry Swain, Anne Wade.
Apologies	Miranda Aston, Trevor Cornfoot, Roger Ladbury, Nick Meynell, Frank Tonkinson, 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 Bob Rainsley	Working parties: Bob explained that there are, on average, 4 hardy souls who turn out to work on the footpaths on ACW route and the circular walks routes. However, they are all around 75 years of age or older and could do with a lot more help (please!), as they are understandably limited to the scale of job required. The work arises from notifications via Anne Wade and via the website (Roger Ladbury). Bob showed us photos of the work undertaken this year – very impressive. Full ‘stories’ of the working parties are on the website. Do take a look and feel inspired to help (please again!). Thank you, Bob.
Minutes of AGM 2022	These are on the ACWA website. Copies provided by email to all AGM invitees.
Matters Arising	None. Roger proposed that they be accepted as a true document. Seconded by John.
Chair’s Report Bob Brandon	Another busy year. Highlight being the Challenge which successfully moved base from the Queen’s Head to the Heart of England Social Club on Berkswell Road, Meriden. We also rationalised the number of checkpoints from 7 down to 5. This reduced cost. We are grateful to the Burrin family and their friends for looking after the Corley Moor CP since the Challenge inception. Also, to the Jeffcoat family who kindly (unknowingly) inherited the Bedworth CP in the front garden upon making Arden House their home. It was sad to leave The Queens Head again. However, we did find the accommodation at the Social Club better fitted our needs. The 5 timing checkpoints are now at Cryfield Grange Road; Bubbenhall Village Hall; Brinklow Scout Hut; Outside Barnacle Village Hall; Breach Oak Lane. At the end of May ACWA hosted the Meriden checkpoint on the annual 100-mile LDWA, whereby Michael Jones was overall organiser and Anne Wade responsible for the 100-mile route. Involvement with the 100-mile event meant that we had an opportunity to see how trackers worked and able to see how they gave value to the checkpoint function. As a result, we are trialling

	<p>trackers on everyone taking part in the Challenge 2024.</p> <p>ACWA had a presence at the annual Godiva Festival thanks to the energy of Barry Swain. The festival was back to its traditional date – first weekend in July. There was interest, with many people asking about the 21 walks.</p> <p>The 21 walks book is out of date because of HS2 - and other changes. Therefore, we gave away, at no charge, the final few of our stock (we have 3 remaining for the archives).</p> <p>After the summer, a Kenilworth outlet put in an order to Bill Eve for several copies of the book – sadly, Bill was not able to fulfil the order. Anne has been busy bringing up to date the original 21 walks. Anne will be telling us of her progress later this evening.</p> <p>Anne has been collaborating closely with Roger Ladbury who has helped by checking the script and ever updating the website.</p> <p>I appreciated the talk by Bob Rainsley at the head of this evening – the replacement of the footbridge between Bubbenhall Wood and Weston Lane - the collaboration between ACWA, Warwickshire CC and the local farmer is to be applauded.</p> <p>Ken will be reporting this evening on progress of entries for Challenge 2024. We will be having a Challenge meeting here on January 16th. ACWA are a small group, managing to get through a lot.</p> <p>Bob.Brandon42@gmail.com</p>
<p>Secretary's Report</p> <p>Anne Wade</p>	<p>Apart from writing meeting minutes, I have endless correspondence with the Rights of Way authorities overseeing our paths, namely Solihull MBC, Warks CC and the Canal & River Trust. The latter is currently repairing the towpath on the Oxford Canal between Grimes bridge (26) and Nettle Hill Bridge (24) – still some way to go though. I have also been in correspondence with Meriden Hall to try to increase our parking capacity for ACW Challenge day.</p>
<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>John Aylmer</p>	<p>The accounts were much easier to manage this year, without having 3 years of overlapping Challenges to deal with!</p> <p>We hold our funds in the Santander Bank and the Coventry Building Society and a small Cash float.</p> <p>Figures are from November 2022 to October 2023.</p> <p>Since our last AGM, our total funds have hardly altered, now at £14,713.</p> <p>Traditionally, our funds are supplied by profits from ACW Challenge and the Circular Walks book sales. However, book sales are on hold until the process of updating is complete.</p> <p>This year, our Challenge brought in £6,350 (£5,500 in entries and £850 in T-shirt sales).</p> <p>Main costs this year: Challenge £3,350, Equipment £1,315, Donations £1,600, Web £68.</p> <p>Interest figures are minimal: Santander up from £8,210 to £8,270 and</p>

	<p>Coventry Building Society, from which we debit and credit, staying much the same.</p> <p>I would like to thank all members of the Association, who have made my work easier by promptly providing information re invoices and receipts.</p> <p>A big “thank-you” to Bob Rainsley for auditing the books.</p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible use of excess funds for footpath maintenance and repairs, where jobs are too big for our working parties and the relevant authorities ignore us?? • Possible use of excess funds for OS Maps copyright licence for maps in eventual printing of circular walks books??
<p>Working Party Coordinator Report Bob Rainsley</p>	<p>As above. All ‘works’ are reported on our website. www.acoventryway.org.uk</p>
<p>Book Sales Bill Eve</p>	<p>As above. None.</p> <p>Anyone enquiring can be directed to our website – Footpaths drop down menu – 21 Circular Walks. All updates are there.</p>
<p>Challenge Coordinator Report Ken Nicholas</p>	<p>ACW CHALLENGE 2024 (Sunday 7th April) – as at 28/11/2023.</p> <p>Entries opened: 01/11/2023.</p> <p>Entries fully subscribed: 18/11/2023.</p> <p>Entries on-line: 254, of which 4 invited from waiting list, 1 at request of Anne Wade, 3 at my discretion (Coventry CAB, raising money for their charity)</p> <p>Entries transferred from 2023: 3</p> <p>Total 257</p> <p>Males 145</p> <p>Females 102</p> <p>Relays 10</p> <p>Waiting List 20</p> <p>Nobody has quibbled about the increase in entry fee (£20 to £24).</p> <p>Nobody has queried the use of trackers.</p> <p>I have not contacted Princethorpe College yet regarding their customary entry. Their numbers usually balance out the number of no shows on the day.</p> <p>I have made a start on amending the maps, as necessary, for the Green Books.</p>
<p>Route Coordinator Anne Wade</p>	<p>Last year there were significant changes to the Challenge route to take account of HS2 diversions with various ‘short-cuts’ to keep the route close to the traditional 40 miles. This year, as expected, another HS2 diversion is in place between Kenilworth Golf Course and Kingswood Farm. Again, a shorter route elsewhere had to be found. The solution</p>

is to omit the route around the boundary of Warwick Uni (which also saves having to ask permission). Instead, the route will cut back across the fields by Hurst Farm, joining the bridleway up and alongside Roughknowles Wood. CP1 will be in the layby at the Cryfield Grange Road crossing. This is up the road from where it was located last year. From CP1, the route continues on the bridleway joining a tarmac cycleway down to the already diverted cycleway from Warwick Uni to Kenilworth. The rest of the route remains the same and now totals 40.6 miles.

A new Route Description, GPX file and Map Overlay were on the website in time for entries opening on 1st November. Again, these are all available now for those wishing to recce the route before April. I will finalise any further changes in March. I have also made the same changes to the Cyril Bean Anytime Route and Roger has uploaded the relevant files to the website.

The only other location which I will be checking out is the new cycle route along the back of the new Astley Fields housing development. Hopefully, this will be available to us to use in April, avoiding the nasty section along Astley Lane.

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 using trackers for the Challenge event next year. The benefits of these have already been documented. Suffice to say that a number of 'virtual clips' will be included in the GPX Waypoints to ensure adherence to the route.

I still have plenty of waymark discs and stickers for waymarking around the route. I will also put out reflective markers near the start and finish of the route for those starting and finishing in the dark (some reflective markers are already in place from the EBB100!!!).

Since the completion of EBB100, my project has been the updating of our 21 Circular Walks. This has proved rather more time-consuming than planned!! However, it is an enjoyable enterprise and gives me a focus for my daily outings. I have also enjoyed the research and fascinating stories behind the history of the area and, of course, my own background and interest in Biology and Ecology has informed the environmental aspects accompanying each walk. The best thing about uploading the walks onto the website is that I don't have to concern myself with word limits and we can have photos and maps in colour! Roger Ladbury has been an immense help and support in, not just checking my work, but also in actually walking the routes with the route descriptions and making excellent observations for improvements. He is also uploading everything onto the website for everyone in the whole world to use.

	<p>So far, Walks 1 to 10 have been completed and uploaded onto the website. Walk 11 is also complete – Roger will upload the details for this one on return from his holiday. I am currently working on Walk 12. All the walks have amendments of some kind from Cyril’s original ones, some very minor, some quite substantial, either because of HS2 diversions, new housing developments or safety issues. However, all keep to Cyril’s legacy – they all contain a section of A Coventry Way and all, except Walk 9, offer a shorter ‘Route A’.</p> <p>For every Walk, there is an accurate route description written in full, historical & environmental information, GPX files and Map Overlays for both the Main Walk and Route A.</p> <p>Please take a look and go for a walk!!!</p>																						
Election of Committee and Other Volunteers	<p>2024 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</td> <td>Bob Rainsley</td> </tr> <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>	Chair	Bob Brandon	Secretary	Anne Wade	Treasurer	John Aylmer	Challenge Entry Coordinator	Ken Nicholas	Working Party Coordinator	Bob Rainsley	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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Any Other Business	<p>Date of next Challenge Meeting: Tuesday 16th January. 7pm. King Henry VIII School Swimming Pool Classroom.</p>																						