

A COVENTRY WAY ASSOCIATION – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 21st JANUARY 2025

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, Trevor Cornfoot, Tony Duckett, Richard Hicks, Sally Hicks, Roger Ladbury, Ken Nicholas, Anne Wade, Clive Wainwright.
Apologies	Miranda Aston, Bob Carey, Sheila Dunn, Bill Eve, Greta Greenall, Michael Jones, Debbie Morse, Doug Shelton, Frank Tonkinson, Ulli Ull.
Welcome, Health and Safety	I welcomed the attendees and thanked everyone for their attendance. Many thanks to Debbie Morse for booking the room and to me for providing the refreshments.
Minutes of AGM 2023	These are on the ACWA website. Copies provided by email to all AGM invitees.
Matters Arising	None. Roger Brown proposed that they be accepted as a true record. Seconded by Ken Nicholas.
Chair's Report Anne Wade	<p>Following Bob Brandon's temporary incapacitation, I took over as acting Chair after the January meeting last year (2024). This meant that I had to mastermind the whole organisation of A Coventry Way Challenge event in April. An arduous and stressful task with the burden of responsibility to match. The event was a resounding success and all participants seemed to enjoy themselves, despite the mud! The use of plastic overshoes (and floor coverings) was deemed essential and we will use them again this year. The trackers were also a success, enabling checkpoint marshals to monitor participants' progress more easily and relay teams/supporters to see the location of 'their' participants. Accurate monitoring at HQ, together with the WhatsApp group, enhanced the safety of the event. A couple more Virtual Clips are required to prevent participants using alternative road options. Additional parking at the Bull's Head and Meriden Hall alleviated the Social Club car park and Berkswell Road. A multitude and heartfelt thanks go to our supporters and volunteers, not just from ACWA, but also from Heart of England LDWA Local Group. Much appreciated! HoE LG will be running CP5 at Breach Oak Lane and helping at HQ this year. We had various meetings throughout the year in association with ACW Challenge and also a meeting with HoE LG to discuss the future of ACWA and ACW Challenge event. More on this later.</p> <p>On 1st July I did a presentation on ACW at the 5th Kenilworth Scouts AGM (10th anniversary). I did a slide show and talk, and displayed photo stands. This inspired them to walk the ACW route in September in 2 teams admirably led by Richard and Sally Hicks. Thank you so much! The scouts have subsequently offered to help out on path clearance and on ACW Challenge event day.</p> <p>Because of our dwindling volunteer numbers and lack of availability, it was decided not to have a stand at the Godiva Festival in July.</p>

	<p>On 25th October the John Muir Trust, in association with Historic Coventry Trust (one of the beneficiaries of our Challenge donations), held a walk and talk at Charterhouse Heritage Park and London Road Cemetery Anglican Chapel. This was attended by myself, Ken, Vron and Trevor. It was a very interesting and worthwhile evening.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the planned AGM in December had to be postponed due to my father's funeral, which fell on the same date.</p>
<p>Secretary's Report</p> <p>Anne Wade</p>	<p>This has involved the usual writing of meeting minutes, communications in relation to the ACW Challenge event and endless correspondence with the Rights of Way authorities overseeing our paths, namely Solihull MBC, Warks CC and the Canal & River Trust.</p>
<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>John Aylmer Ken Nicholas</p>	<p>Following a small committee meeting in December, Ken has taken over the ACWA Treasurer role. He has gone through the accounts (bank statements, Coventry Building Society book and Santander) and presented the accounts as at 31/10/2024. In order to manage the accounts more easily, he proposes to open a new current account with online banking, instead of CBS. Some discussion took place regarding which bank would be appropriate – Santander, Lloyds or another? Free community accounts no longer exist. All banks charge for their services (approx. £4 per month) and 'business' deposit accounts may be too expensive to set up. It was agreed that 3 signatories are required. Trevor proposed and the AGM authorised Ken to investigate the banking situation further with help from Richard. The AGM also appointed Alistair Hayward-Wright as auditor of the accounts, since he is independent of ACWA and a qualified accountant.</p>
<p>Challenge Coordinator Report</p> <p>Ken Nicholas</p>	<p>ACW CHALLENGE 2025 (Sunday 6th April)</p> <p>Entries opened: 01/11/2024.</p> <p>Entries fully subscribed: 07/12/2024.</p> <p>Entries on-line: 250 (150 males, 83 females, 17 relay teams).</p> <p>Waiting list: 41.</p> <p>No reply from Princethorpe College. Their numbers usually balance out the number of no shows on the day.</p> <p>Green Books left over from last year will be used. Any amendments will be added as an insert.</p>
<p>Website Administrator Report</p> <p>Roger Ladbury</p>	<p>Main work this year has been uploading, maintaining and updating the 21 Circular Walks.</p> <p>Also removing redundant information and keeping up-to-date with ACW Challenge information.</p> <p>Queries arising via the 'contact' page are answered directly or passed on to Anne Wade.</p>
<p>Working Party Coordinator Report</p>	<p>It is no longer possible to have working parties due to age, infirmity and dwindling numbers. The plea for volunteers at last year's Challenge event produced zero response.</p> <p>It is now only able-bodied supporters with time who can carry out</p>

<p>Roger Ladbury</p>	<p>small-scale path clearance on an ad hoc basis. Several route sections were noted as needing work or even rerouting because of their poor state.</p> <p>Now that the Local Authorities generally ignore rights of way problem reports, might it be possible to use excess ACWA funds for footpath maintenance and repairs, ie hire contractors to do the work required?</p>
<p>Route Coordinator Report & 21 Circular Walks</p> <p>Anne Wade</p>	<p>Last year a further HS2 diversion was put in place between Kenilworth Golf Course and Kingswood Farm. Again, a shorter route elsewhere had to be found to keep the length of the route at just over 40 miles. The solution was to omit the route around the boundary of Warwick Uni (which also saved me having to ask permission). Instead, the route cut back across the fields by Hurst Farm, joining the bridleway up and alongside Roughknowles Wood. CP1 was in the layby at the Cryfield Grange Road crossing and was approved by Miranda and Ulli! From here, the route continues on the bridleway joining a tarmac cycleway down to the already diverted cycleway from Warwick Uni to Kenilworth.</p> <p>Just before ACW event last year, the new route through Bedworth had to be changed due to a closed footpath at the bottom of Rectory Drive (another new housing development!). An alternative route was hastily found via a footpath under the disused railway to Dalton Road, then via Delamere Road and the 'local' path to rejoin the route on Heath Road. This will be checked again for this year, as well as the potential new cycle route along the back of the Astley Fields housing estate. For now, the Route Description, GPX file and Map Overlay remain the same as last year and are on the website. Any further changes will be finalised in March, together with the safety management plan and risk assessment.</p> <p>All 21 Circular Walks have now been completed. For each walk, the website has map overlays, GPX map files, route description, historical and wildlife information. Walks are updated as and when amendments are required/notified to us. Thank you to Roger Ladbury for his work on these.</p> <p>Leaflets are available to place in pubs, cafes etc on the Walk routes and also to walkers that we meet on the paths!</p>
<p>Election of Committee and Other Volunteers</p>	<p>2025 Committee:</p> <p>Chair - Anne Wade</p> <p>Proposer: Ken. Seconded: Roger B.</p> <p>Secretary - Bob Brandon</p> <p>Proposer: Clive. Seconded: Trevor.</p> <p>Treasurer - Ken Nicholas</p> <p>Proposer: John. Seconded: Roger L.</p> <p>Challenge Entry Coordinator - Ken Nicholas</p> <p>Route Coordinator &</p>

	<p>21 Circular Walks- Anne Wade Website Administrator - Roger Ladbury Proposer: Ken. Seconded: Roger B. Committee member - Richard Hicks (Thank you!) Proposer: Trevor. Seconded: Ken.</p>
<p>Discussion regarding future of ACWA, ACW Challenge & LDWA HoE LG</p>	<p>Due to the funnel effect of dwindling numbers, it was agreed that we need ideas, strategies and plans for a way forward both in terms of ACW Challenge event and ACWA as a whole. Since the demise of Working Parties, ACWA has become almost solely concerned with organising the Challenge event. Our constitution and agreement with HoE need to be looked at carefully, especially if ACWA is to be 'wound up'. Currently, HoE require a 'bond' of £4000 for ACW Challenge to be transferred to the LG. Benefits include: LDWA insurance (already obtained), larger pool of volunteers to draw upon, back-up of large organisation.</p> <p>For the April Post-Challenge meeting, proposal is to accept the HoE offer to take on ACW Challenge from 2026.</p>
<p>Any Other Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HoE list of volunteers. Thank you, Clive. As well as running CP5, marshals are required at HQ. Roles to be assigned to volunteers in time for Pre-Challenge meeting in March. • Storage options – amongst others, Bill and Sheila have tools, which they would like to be collected. Need to rationalise what there is and what to do with them. I also have a lot of ACW Challenge event equipment and display stands, all of which need to be stored. My house is already too full! AW will investigate some paid for storage solutions. • Date of Pre-Challenge Meeting: Tuesday 11th March. 7pm. King Henry VIII School Swimming Pool Classroom. DM to book. • Date of Post-Challenge meeting: Tuesday 15th April (provisional due to Easter holidays). DM to book.