

A COVENTRY WAY ASSOCIATION – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 29th NOVEMBER 2018

Venue	Archive Room, King Henry VIII School
Attendees	John Alymer, Bob Brandon, Roger Brown, Bob Carey, Trevor Cornfoot, Bill Eve, Simon Holloway, Nick Meynell, Ken Nicholas, Bob Rainsley, Doug Shelton, Barry Swain, Alan Townsend, Stan Veasey, Anne Wade.
Apologies	Bob Watson, Frank Tonkinson, Bernard Roebuck, John Green, [Peter Page]
Welcome	Ken welcomed the attendees and thanked everyone for their attendance. He also thanked Nick for hosting the meeting at KHVIII School.
Health and Safety	Nick briefed everyone on health and safety issues, particularly the fire alarm procedure and toilet arrangements!
Minutes of AGM 2017	These are on the ACWA website and hard copies were provided for everyone at the meeting. We had time to read them.
Matters Arising	None.
Chairman's Report John Green	<p>Please accept my apologies for not being with you this evening. I am apparently (I am informed) acting my age. [He wishes everyone 'all the best' and thanks us all for our support.]</p> <p>The year 2018 has proved to be one of change for A Coventry Way Association. With severe financial cutbacks the local Councils have been reluctant to supply furniture to enable our group to upgrade Public Footpaths. However, whilst not meeting every month our working party volunteers have remained active ensuring the paths that we "patrol" remain in reasonable condition.</p> <p>Challenge Sunday was again very successful and this year saw Cyril Bean's daughter complete the 40 miles.</p> <p>The Godiva Festival gave the Association a chance to advertise and sell our activities. A fun time was enjoyed by all.</p> <p>This year the Association became active on Face Book, and whilst some of us "oldies" were apprehensive, results have proved us wrong.</p> <p>On a sombre note, Bob Watson and Bernard Roebuck have endured worrying times. Bob, I am pleased to report is finally at the age of eighty being sensible and slowing down. Bernard has suffered quite a severe stroke and will be hospitalised for some time yet. But visitors tell me that he still has that wry smile.</p> <p>In closing, I am delighted to express my gratitude to you all for your excellent work and dedication, and for allowing me to be Chairman of this wonderful Association.</p> <p><u>Book Sales.</u></p> <p>The Godiva Festival again proved to be an excellent outlet for the 21 walks book, and a decision was made with just a mere eight books in stock that a reprint in January 2019 would be considered. Almost immediately the Tourist Centre took these eight books and one month later they requested a further twenty. (They obviously sell well at the Tourist Centre). As a result, we have had another reprint of 50 books so as to satisfy the Tourist</p>

	<p>Centre. Since then, we have had yet another request from Kenilworth Books for twenty books. They were delivered today, so that leaves us again with just 10 books. A reprint in January would seem to be needed as previously agreed. However, we do have quite a major change on walk 12 plus a few minor changes, so we will need to consider these before going for a quantity reprint.</p> <p>NB Revised maps and wording are on the website, but not in the book yet.</p>																																	
<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>John Aylmer</p>	<p>We hold our funds in the Santander Bank and the Coventry Building Soc. and a small Cash float.</p> <p>This year our total funds have increased from £16,934 to £17123, =£189</p> <p>The figures can be slightly confusing.....</p> <p>Some of the monies in for the 2018 Challenge were on last year's account. Some of the money on this year's account is for the 2019 Challenge.....</p> <p>Already, there has been a massive uptake for the 2019 Challenge with £2500 taken.</p> <p>Book sales are £206 compared to £650 last year.</p> <p>Santander interest added up to just £36 over the year, while CBS was a more miserly £7.</p> <p>The major success was the Challenge which, despite the increase in entry fee, sold out more quickly than ever, and brought in over £2000 in profit. The profit enabled us to support a record a record number of charities:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Donation</td> <td>Coventry Resource Centre</td> <td>200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation</td> <td>74th Coventry Scouts</td> <td>200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation</td> <td>11th Coventry Scouts</td> <td>100.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation</td> <td>Myaware</td> <td>200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation</td> <td>W.N.A.A</td> <td>200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation</td> <td>Myton Hospice</td> <td>200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation</td> <td>BETEL UK</td> <td>200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation</td> <td>Boot Fund</td> <td>100.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation</td> <td>Allesley Walled Garden</td> <td>100.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation</td> <td>44th Coventry Scouts (Brinklow)</td> <td>100.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation</td> <td>Jo Coffee Morning</td> <td>50.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>I would like to thank all members of the society who have made my work easier by providing promptly any information on invoices and receipts etc. Finally, a big "thank-you" to Bob Rainsley for auditing the books.</p>	Donation	Coventry Resource Centre	200.00	Donation	74th Coventry Scouts	200.00	Donation	11th Coventry Scouts	100.00	Donation	Myaware	200.00	Donation	W.N.A.A	200.00	Donation	Myton Hospice	200.00	Donation	BETEL UK	200.00	Donation	Boot Fund	100.00	Donation	Allesley Walled Garden	100.00	Donation	44th Coventry Scouts (Brinklow)	100.00	Donation	Jo Coffee Morning	50.00
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<p>Challenge Coordinator Report</p> <p>Ken Nicholas</p>	<p>CHALLENGE 2018</p> <p>This year we used SiEntries for the first time and it proved to be very successful. Not only did entries come in quickly, but there was much less work for me to do in transferring them to our own spreadsheets. In the end we had 251 entrants, but with 21 not turning up, this gave us only 230 starters. Of these 206 completed the 40 miles. The last finisher was at 9:52pm, which is much later than we would want. We are taking measures to improve this for next year. As usual, we received many compliments on the event; both for the course and the support en route. Many thanks to</p>																																	

	<p>all those involved in making the event a success once again.</p> <p>CHALLENGE 2019</p> <p>Entries for next year’s event have arrived in great numbers, soon after the opening date, and by the end of October we had to close the books and start a waiting list. This is a whole two months earlier than last time. Currently, there are 64 on the waiting list. It remains to be seen how many people will drop out before the event, but as only 20 made it off last year’s waiting list, many of the 64+ are going to be disappointed. So far, 7 have cancelled. Up until the cut-off point (usually the end of January) we are offering a refund of £15.00 to those cancelling, as long as there are people on the waiting list willing to take their place. The £5.00 deduction is to cover our administration costs, including the fees we pay to SiEntries for processing the payments and refunds.</p> <p>Having tweaked my conversion spreadsheet, I have again reduced the effort required to transfer entrants to our spreadsheets.</p> <p>[Some discussion then ensued re extending the date for refunds, as it is desirable for entrants to withdraw some time prior to the event, rather than just not turning up on the day. And they are more likely to withdraw in advance if they receive a partial refund. And this gives more people on the waiting list a chance to take part. A month or even two weeks before were suggested???)</p>
<p>Working Party Coordinator Report</p> <p>Bob Carey</p>	<p>This year of 2018 has been a fairly quiet one as far as working parties are concerned. As in the previous two years, both Solihull and Warwickshire Councils have suffered cutbacks to their budgets and so no longer contact us asking for our volunteers to do work for them. In fact, all of the work that we did this past year was work that we as an Association instigated ourselves. We did have a “Working Party” dinner again in January at Sparrow Hall where 13 of us enjoyed a meal at midday.</p> <p>February saw us carrying on with the work that we had already started the previous year on the path from Hodgetts Lane This path was to be used once again as part of the Challenge route and needed considerable work to try and lift the level of the path in places so as to avoid it getting so muddy due to the stream alongside it overflowing onto the path. This we achieved to a great degree by digging out the ditch and using the soil from it to heighten the path. We then used stone, supplied by Solihull Council, to try and make a firmer base to the path. This entailed wheel barrowing the stone some 200-300 yards in order to complete the path. Many volunteers were involved in this operation and many of them turned out for two consecutive weeks in February and again for another session in March in order to complete the job in time for the Challenge. In total, some 12 tons of stone were used to complete this task and it was laid on top of Garden Weed fabric in order to try and stop the stones from sinking into the muddy base. A really big thank you is in order here for what was a very strenuous job. Considering we are all well past our “sell by date” I think it was a</p>

fantastic result.

On March 7th, a small group of us took a load of wood of all lengths and sizes from “The Grange” at Keresley which was kindly given to us by Simon Holloway of Coventry City Council for us to use as and when we needed it. This took about three return journeys to take to a storage area at King Henry V111 playing fields off the A45 where it is now stored. A big thanks to John Green for arranging this storage area. We now need to look out for sites where this wood can be used for the benefit of walkers using “our” footpaths. It will of course be used mainly for stile repairs or broken bridges.

Three members, Roger, Alan and myself on March 21st went to Kenilworth Golf Course to **YET AGAIN** re install 4 waymark posts that had once again “fallen out of their holes” This time we concreted them back in so hopefully this will not be needed again. We then went over to Hodgetts Lane to help out with the other volunteers who were working there.

On March 28th, I walked from Brinklow to Bedworth doing small jobs that Anne had pointed out needed attention before the Challenge.

Then on **April 8th** we “hosted” the Challenge which once again was a great success. Well done to all who were involved in any way with the Challenge. After a very quiet summer as regards working parties, on **September 26th** a small group of us walked from Corley Moor to Old Waste Lane, along the route of A Coventry Way with the intention of spotting any possible tasks that might need to be done before next April’s Challenge. We came across two stiles close to Birchley Hayes Wood (Map 18) that we considered rather high. Bernard had already pointed this out to us beforehand. Then, just south of Ivy House Farm (Map 18) we found another stile which was in a bad state of repair. Further on, beyond Benton Green Lane we came across a bridge that was in a dangerous state with the middle tread acting like a see saw. All three sites were noted and with timber supplied by Solihull Council we repaired the bridge on **October 2nd**.

Then on **November 14th** a small group of us went out and “lowered” the two high stiles by Birchley Hayes Wood and made a good repair of the stile south of Ivy House Farm.

As is usual at this time of the year we need to look at as much of A Coventry Way route as possible from now on so as to check if any more work needs doing before the Challenge.

To repeat what John G has said in his report, we have unfortunately lost the services of Bob Watson who, through ill health, has decided to pull back on his work with our working party group and of course, Bernard, who is, as I write this, in hospital having suffered a severe stroke. We wish them both a good recovery.

**Election of
Committee**

All committee members have agreed to continue in their current roles.

Chairman

John Green

Secretary

Ken Nicholas

