

## A COVENTRY WAY ASSOCIATION – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2019

<b>Venue</b>	Swimming Pool Classroom, King Henry VIII School
<b>Attendees</b>	John Alymer, Bob Brandon, Roger Brown, Bob Carey, Trevor Cornfoot, Bill Eve, John Green, Roger Ladbury, Debbie Morse, Ken Nicholas, Bob Rainsley, Doug Shelton, Barry Swain, Frank Tonkinson, Alan Townsend, Stan Veasey, Anne Wade, Bob Watson, Phyllis Wigham.
<b>Apologies</b>	Simon Holloway, Nick Meynell, Michelle Tyrtania.
<b>Welcome, Health and Safety</b>	John Green welcomed the attendees and thanked everyone for their attendance. Many thanks to Debbie Morse for booking the venue and for providing delicious refreshments. John introduced our speakers...
<b>Talk</b>	<p>Coventry Resources Centre for the Blind was one of the beneficiaries of our donations following our A Coventry Way Challenge this year. Rosie Brady and Judith Middleton gave us an insightful (!) talk about the Centre and provided an interesting display of clever gadgets to help those with visual impairments. We were all enthralled to hear about the essential and invaluable work that they and their volunteers do. CRBC is located at 33-35 Earlsdon Avenue South, Coventry, CV5 6TH. For more information, please visit their website <a href="http://www.coventryblind.org.uk">www.coventryblind.org.uk</a></p> <p>A photo of Rosie and Judith receiving a £50 cheque from retiring Chairman, John Green, is on our Facebook page and website.</p>
<b>Minutes of AGM 2018</b>	These are on the ACWA website and hard copies were provided for everyone at the meeting.
<b>Matters Arising</b>	None.
<b>Chairman's Report</b>  <b>John Green</b>	<p>Following on from last year, due to financial restraints, 2019 has been a year when local footpath volunteers have had little support from the Councils. Indeed, one group now produces their own waymark posts at a fraction of the cost which the local authorities pay. Two examples can be seen on A Coventry Way at the top of Stoneleigh Hill. For A Coventry Way Association our contribution has been the never-ending fight to clear the vegetation, which has thrived in this year's weather conditions.</p> <p>HS2 continues to raise concerns and the Association are making plans to divert A Coventry Way when and where necessary. However, the rerouting of power lines will go ahead over the next few months, but due to good cooperation by Warwick, the Power Company and ACWA (Bob Carey), we are hopeful that the Challenge will not be affected in April.</p> <p>Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to all members for their dedication in ensuring the aims of Cyril Bean are met: TO MAKE THE COUNTRYSIDE AVAILABLE TO ALL.</p> <p>John then handed over the Chairman's seat to our new Chairman, Bob Brandon. On behalf of ACWA, Bob thanked John for all his time and</p>

	efforts over the years.																														
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>  <b>John Aylmer</b>	<p>We hold our funds in the Santander Bank and the Coventry Building Society and a small Cash float.</p> <p>This year our total funds have increased to £19480.27, which is more than £2000 expected. The figures can be slightly confusing.....</p> <p>Some of the monies in for the 2019 Challenge were on last year's account. The 2020 Challenge is already sold out and there is a waiting list, so the extra £2000+ is from this extra income at this time.</p> <p>Book sales are £389 compared to £206 last year.</p> <p>A donation of £250 was received from Solihull Council for works done by our working parties.</p> <p>Santander interest added up to £48.78 over the year, while CBS was a more miserly £8.99.</p> <p>The major success was the Challenge, which sold out more quickly than ever, and brought in £2200 surplus. This enabled us to support the following charities:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>A.C.W.A. Donations 2019</th> <th>£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Coventry Resource Centre</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Myaware</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W N A A</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Myton Hospice</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boot Fund</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stroke Association</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parkinson's Coventry</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>74th Cov Scouts</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11th Cov Scouts</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>44th Coventry Scouts (Brinklow)</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Allesley Walled Garden</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barnacle Village Hall</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BETEL UK</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>2200</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I would like to thank all members of ACWA, who have made my work easier by providing promptly any information on invoices and receipts. Finally, a big "thank-you" to Bob Rainsley for auditing the books.</p>	A.C.W.A. Donations 2019	£	Coventry Resource Centre	200	Myaware	200	W N A A	200	Myton Hospice	200	Boot Fund	200	Stroke Association	200	Parkinson's Coventry	200	74th Cov Scouts	200	11th Cov Scouts	200	44th Coventry Scouts (Brinklow)	100	Allesley Walled Garden	100	Barnacle Village Hall	100	BETEL UK	100	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2200</b>
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<b>Challenge Coordinator Report</b>	<p><b>CHALLENGE 2019</b></p> <p>Another successful day helped by the fine weather! Many thanks go to all our volunteers at the Queens Head and our stalwart checkpoint marshals. Your invaluable help is much appreciated by the committee</p>																														

<p><b>Ken Nicholas</b></p>	<p>and participants and we could not run the event without you! As ever, kind comments were received by email and on Facebook.</p> <p><b>CHALLENGE 2020 (Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April)</b></p> <p>Entries for next year's event surpassed all expectations and sold out in a fortnight! Currently, there are 260 confirmed places (154 males, 97 females and 11 relays), plus 24 places 'reserved'. The waiting list comprises 58 people so far. In order to encourage entrants to let us know that they are going to withdraw, a refund of £15.00 is offered to those cancelling their places. 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>It was noted that the Coventry Half Marathon is also to be held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April. It has certainly not affected our entries!!</p>						
<p><b>Working Party Coordinator Report</b></p> <p><b>Bob Carey</b></p>	<p>This year of 2019 has been a fairly quiet one as far as working parties are concerned. As in the previous 3 years, both Solihull and Warwickshire Councils have suffered cutbacks to their budgets. Warwickshire have not contacted us at all, but some work has been done at the request of Solihull, for which they have given us a donation of £250 (see Treasurer's Report).</p> <p><b>February 20<sup>th</sup>:</b> Walk 12. Clear path by M6. Whoops, already done!</p> <p><b>April:</b> Request of Solihull. Barry and myself repaired a bridge &amp; stile in Balsall Common area.</p> <p><b>July 17<sup>th</sup>:</b> Request of Solihull. Clearance of two paths off Truggist Lane. (approaching Berkswell Stn).</p> <p><b>July 31<sup>st</sup>:</b> Request of Solihull. Clearance of path beside Beanit Farm.</p> <p><b>August:</b> Replaced gate post on walk 17, off Sandy Lane. Request of resident.</p> <p><b>September 25<sup>th</sup> &amp; 26<sup>th</sup>.</b> Me painting posts and adding new waymark boards across Golf Course.</p> <p><b>October 23<sup>rd</sup>.</b> Big clearance of path into Golf Course from Frythe Close.</p> <p><b>November 20<sup>th</sup>.</b> Clearance of path from Bentons Green Lane back along ACW to Bentons Green.</p> <p><b>November 28<sup>th</sup>.</b> Bill &amp; myself had a look at The Laurels gate &amp; improved WMP approached from Fishing Pool.</p> <p><b>December 10<sup>th</sup>.</b> Bill Eve, John Aylmer and Bob Rainsley repaired a bridge on ACW off Harvest Hill Lane.</p> <p>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. Please report any findings to me.</p>						
<p><b>Election of Committee</b></p>	<p>Some changes have been made to the committee:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Chairman</td> <td>Bob Brandon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Anne Wade</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>John Aylmer</td> </tr> </table>	Chairman	Bob Brandon	Secretary	Anne Wade	Treasurer	John Aylmer
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	Working Party Coordinator	Bob Carey
	Challenge Entry Coordinator	Ken Nicholas
	Webmaster	Roger Ladbury
<b>Other Specific Duties</b>	Challenge Committee	Bob Brandon, Anne Wade, Bob Carey, Ken Nicholas, John Aylmer, John Green
	Auditor	Bob Rainsley
	Book Sales	Bill Eve
	Facebook	Nick Meynell
	Geocaching	Keith Greenall
	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.	
<b>Website Development</b>	<p>Roger has very kindly taken on the role of Webmaster for the ACWA and has spent an enormous amount of time and effort on revamping our website. We have been blown away by what he has managed to achieve so far and we are incredibly appreciative. Thank you so much! Unfortunately, technology did not play fair during the meeting, so Roger explained his achievements to date: the new website has a fresh feel, a new menu and is suitable for all devices (laptop, tablet, smartphone etc). He has reorganised the Challenge information to avoid repetition and to make it easily accessible. ACWA documents have also been reorganised into a more logical sequence. In addition, the downloadable information from the 21 Walks pages and Green Book have been made easier to find and more aesthetically presented. Next steps: to share the new website content, layout etc with the committee; and to invite comments, eg information and documents which are out-of-date, no longer required, any additions, or changes. Hoping to go live in the spring, perhaps in time for the Challenge....</p>	
<b>ACWA Constitution</b>	<p>It was noted that there are only 2 constitution documents currently on the website dated 2000 and 2005, ie very out-of-date!</p> <p>The main issues involve the references to 'members', since without members, there is no Association. The membership list is out-of-date, no new members have been recruited in recent years, no one pays any subscriptions and the Association is at risk of fading away as the current 'members' age. It was suggested that new members could be recruited from ACW Challengers?</p> <p>It was agreed that the constitution will be discussed at the next committee meeting in the New Year. In the meantime, please see the 2005 constitution attached. Any comments, please email them to the ACWA Secretary, Anne Wade, <a href="mailto:anne.wade@btconnect.com">anne.wade@btconnect.com</a></p>	
<b>Footpath Updates</b>	<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, will be updated on our website.</p> <p>National Grid is closing one of the footpaths on ACW in the coming</p>	

	<p>months (between Astley Lane and Breach Oak Lane), but work should be completed in time for our Challenge event in April.</p> <p>Kenilworth Greenway is now completely blocked at the 'dangerous' bridge (between the Waste Lane bridge and the farm bridge by the electricity substation). There is already a diversion in place for ACW, but many people, who know the original route, have still been using it. Now they MUST use the diversion!!</p> <p>The permissive path on the 'other side of the hedge' along the Fosse Way on approaching Bretford is now completely overgrown and full of rabbit holes. In addition, the busy road has to be crossed twice. It was decided that it may be safer to stay along the side/verge of the road.... Please report any further findings to path problems/changes to any committee member.</p>
<p><b>EBB 100 2022</b></p> <p><b>Anne Wade</b></p>	<p>In 2022 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 28<sup>th</sup> – Mon 30<sup>th</sup> May, with a marshals' event on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> April – Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Plans for the event are now well underway: the route is almost finalised, checkpoint venues have been booked etc etc.</p> <p>ACWA will be running Checkpoint 13 at Old Milverton Village Hall. This is at approx. 88 miles, so is likely to be open from 0900 on the Sunday to 0300 on the Monday. 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021 City of Culture is only one year away! It would be useful to think about our contribution.....</li> <li>• Bill Eve has volunteered to take over our 21 Circular Walks book supply and sales. Thank you!</li> <li>• John Green reaches the amazing age of 90 on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. Congratulations!!! Whilst taking part in the Challenge event is probably beyond him, no less of a challenge will be removing his hearing aids and not speaking for the day!! He will be fundraising for CRCB (see above). Well done, John!</li> <li>• ACWA Christmas cards are currently at the printers.....</li> </ul>