

Dales Way Association Virtual AGM Report 2020.

On October 24th 2020 the Dales Way Association Committee sent out AGM documents to the membership consisting of Annual Report and Finance Report in the form of an Autumn Newsletter. Forty seven members responded, voting unanimously to accept the Annual Report and the Finance Report, to re-appoint the Accountant and re-elect the officers. Over half the replies included thanks to the committee for the newsletter and/or the work that they do. There were a number of interesting comments or questions which led to email discussions with the appropriate committee member. These are summarised below:

Q. Have there been any improvements to the footpath in Cumbria?

A. Cumbria County Council undertook a lot of improvement works on the Dales Way in previous years.

Q. Query about why a new waymark design has appeared in Cumbria.

A. The waymarks used by all the authorities changed some time ago - with them all adopting a "windowed" design for long-distance trails. Hence we had to redesign the central bit, based on our logo. They are beginning to appear across the trail, and certainly a lot have gone up in Cumbria.

Q. Is my membership payment up to date? I haven't had a reminder.

A. Yes it is. All but a very few members pay their subscription by direct Debit or Paypal so we rarely need to issue reminders.

Q. Is the accommodation handbook still available?

A. Not as a printed handbook but you can find a list of accommodation on our website at www.dalesway.org

Q. I should like to record my concern about spending £632 on a 50th anniversary celebratory lunch.

A. I fully understand your concerns about the lunch however the celebratory lunch formed an integral and legitimate part of the package of activities to mark the 50th anniversary of the Dales Way. These included the 50th Anniversary booklet and a set of banners and funding was obtained from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Sustainable Development Fund. The special lunch was intended to act as a thank you gesture for very many individual people or representatives of their organisation who over the last 50 years have made a major contributions the Dales Way including many of the now retired DWA volunteers and Ramblers Association workers who had done a huge amount of unpaid work for the Association over decades. All drinks were paid for by the guests themselves.

These notes will be ratified at the 2021 AGM when we very much hope we are able to meet in person. The DWA committee would like to thank everyone who helped make our Virtual AGM a success.