



THE ICKNIELD WAY ASSOCIATION

Chairperson Report for 2023 AGM

Covid-19

It was disappointing that our 2020, 2021 & 2022 AGM could not be held as normal but it was simply not practical or consistent with government advice. When the Committee consider the 2023 AGM arrangements earlier in the year we agreed return to our previous approach of holding a physical meeting with a walk in the morning.

One of the challenges we always have is that the route is over 100 miles long, so physically meeting anywhere on the route means someone having a long journey. This year at the eastern end of the route. If anyone would like to arrange a walk and tea anywhere along the route during the year, we could supplement the AGM with “meet ups” along the route over the year.

The Committee all agreed to continue in our roles last year, other than the changes noted below and on the agenda the committee members are willing to continue into 2024. We note that Lesley is giving advance notice of standing down from her dual roles of Secretary and Membership Secretary. We would be keen to have one or more people step forward to fill these vital roles.

Committee

May I thank all the committee for their work over the year. We are a small band of individuals each with other interests and pulls on our time and therefore I wish to record my thanks to Lesley, Chris, Clive, Doug, Tim and Maria for the time and effort they have put into the IWA over the past year. As ever, if there is anyone else willing to take on however a small a role, it would be much appreciated.

I informed the committee over several years that I would like to stand down from the Chairmanship, evidently no-one has stepped forward! I have found it difficult to commit the time necessary for the Icknield Way leadership whilst running a growing business. In the summer I sold the business but continue working on the transition. If anyone would like to get involved, then please contact Lesley or myself. I am pleased that Tim Johnson took on the role of treasurer last year and has managed to progress a number of issues with the banking and insurance.

Wardens & Route

Thanks to all the dedicated folk who keep an eye on the route. We welcome the new wardens that have taken on the role. The wardens are essential in identifying problems on the route and for investigating/responding to questions from users.

A number of vacancies remain at the time of writing which we need to try and fill (see newsletter & website news). But particular thanks to those wardens that have retired during the year all of whom I know would like to have continued but circumstances dictate otherwise.

Finally, let me send my best wishes to all our members who wish to support the promotion of the Icknield Way and the long Great Chalk Way, please get out and walk or ride some or all of the Icknield Way.

Tom Chevalier Chairperson 7th Oct 2023

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