

Quo Vadis?

The Journal of The Land's End John O'Groats Association



Issue 114 Autumn 2025



Established 1983

Front Cover.

The Mount Hotel.

Queen's Square, Wolverhampton.

Contents.

4. Notice of the AGM.
6. Editorial.
7. A Different Type of Journey, Paul Goodge
9. The Autumn Social Weekend.
11. Bikepacking Lejog. Norbert Durauer.
24. The Cotswold Way: A Real Gem Of a Walk, Paul Goodge
25. 99 Squadron Royal Air Force cycles LEJOG
34. Remembrance of Neville Tetley.
38. A Tale of Two Lejogs.
42. Beans Means Miles!
46. Tractor Ted and cyclist conquer the UK
52. The Luckiest Lejoggers Ever
57. Lejog by Car Again.
59. Book reviews.
61. The Land's End John O'Groats Association Committee
62. Merchandise

Land's End-John O'Groats Association

42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will take place at The Toorak Hotel, Torquay on Saturday 7th February 2026 at 10.00 hrs.

The purpose of the meeting will be to receive and discuss reports of the Association's business and to elect Officers and Committee members in accordance with the Association's Constitution.

AGENDA

Apologies for Absence

Minutes of the previous meeting/Matters arising

In Memoriam

To receive reports from the Chair, Treasurer, Magazine Editors, Route Advisor, Membership Secretary, Social Secretary, Social Media Secretary

Election of Officers and Committee Members

Any Other Business- please advise the Chair at least three weeks before the meeting so that it can be put on the Agenda.

We welcome new faces to help with the running of the Association. Please feel free to phone or e-mail me for a chat if you are interested in being nominated to join our committee.

Russell George

(Chair)

Land's End -John O'Groats Association



AGM and Presentation Weekend

Our annual AGM and Awards Presentation will take place at **The Toorak Hotel, Torquay** over the weekend of **6/7/8th February 2026**. We welcome all members, new and old.

The weekend incorporates our Annual General Meeting, which is held on the Saturday morning at 10.00am (please see the agenda in QV?). After the AGM we organise a short walk to a local hostelry, where lunch can be taken, then in the evening we hold a special dinner to celebrate the journeys completed in the past year, hand out certificates, and award trophies to the lucky ones selected by our panel of judges. On the Sunday morning there is the chance to buy some of our merchandise and avoid postage costs.

For new members who have recently completed this epic journey, this is the perfect opportunity to be photographed receiving your certificate (and maybe a trophy too!), to meet fellow LEJOG/JOGLE travellers, to share stories about your own journey, and to hear about the remarkable tales of determination and valour displayed in the challenging and inspirational journeys undertaken by others.

The total cost of the weekend is just **£140 per person**, including dinner, bed, and breakfast (based on a minimum of two nights). Options for additional nights, room upgrades, and Saturday dinner only etc. are detailed in the attached booking form, which will also appear in our Quo Vadis? magazine very soon.

As spaces are limited, I would urge you to complete and return the booking form as soon as possible. You can currently pay by bank transfer (preferred) or by cheque, but we hope to have online payment via our website www.lejog.org available very soon.

If you have any questions regarding the weekend, please don't hesitate to contact Henry Cole (hhenrycole@gmail.com) or myself (russellgeorge1@sky.com).

I really hope that you will be able to join us and look forward to seeing you in February.

Russell George,
Chair

Albert Neville Tetley

It is with the deepest regret that we have to advise you all of the death on Sunday 12th of May 2025 of Neville Tetley, aged 90. Neville joined the Association 1989, his membership number was 295. Our condolences go out to his daughter, Susan, her family and all our members who knew him.

Notes from the editors

Hello and welcome to the Autumn edition of Quo Vadis? The official journal of The Lejog Association. It has been a busy few months with a number of travellers tackling the various routes from Lands End to John O’Groats, and vice versa. In consequence, we are pleased to extend a very warm welcome to a number of new members. If you are new and enjoy reading the articles in this issue, please consider sending in your own account of your journey. We are always pleased to read of your exploits!

Now, to give you some details of what we have to offer in this edition. Firstly there is a notice above of the sad loss of Albert Tetley. There is a wonderful account of his character by Geoff De’Ath on page 34.

There is also notice of the AGM of the Association, held in Torquay 7th February 2026. Put the date in your diary! If you can manage it, come for the weekend and meet fellow end to enders and receive your certificate, or maybe even a trophy at the Saturday evening dinner. See the enclosed flyer to book your place.

We have several articles recounting journeys made by cycle, car and on foot. An interesting perspective offered by Norbert Durauer, an Austrian cyclist, who makes some fascinating observations of the UK. Just to prove that we are not obsessed with Lejog/Jogle, we have included two, yes, TWO, articles from the prolific pen of Paul Goodge, neither of which are about Lejog!

The sometimes crazy and unusual ways people tackle the end to end journey are amply illustrated in the articles from Captain Beany and Ted the Tractor’s magnificent driver, plus the ups and downs of the Luckiest Lejoggers.

Enjoy our little magazine, letters to the editor with observations and suggestions for future editions are very welcome. Safe journeys to you all! **Denise and Ted.**

A Different Type of Journey

Paul Goodge

Ever heard of AFS? It's one of the world's great organisations, although sadly largely unknown in this country. The American Field Service (AFS) was, originally, a corps of ambulance drivers, who tended to those on the WWI and WWII battlefields. Determined to help forge a more humane world, not least after witnessing the horrors of Belsen-Belsen, a group of former and existing AFS servicemen founded a secondary school student exchange program intended to perpetuate international friendships in peacetime. In the late 1940s, the first group of secondary school AFS Participants from France, Czechoslovakia, the Netherlands, Norway, England, and Syria arrived in the United States on a scholarship program.

Since those early days, AFS has grown: every year thousands of 16–18-year-olds travel to another country, to stay with a host family. Since the 1970s, the international programme has expanded. Initially visits were to / from the USA, nowadays participants may find themselves in almost any country in the world. AFS promotes itself as an 'intercultural program' and has been recognised as an official UNESCO partner on the basis of its efforts and successes.

As a case study, I can share my experience. I applied in the early 1980s to be accepted onto the programme. There are a number of papers to be filled in, interviews to be held etc., partly to determine your suitability for the programme, but also to maximise the chances of a good 'fit' with your host family. I was fortunate to be accepted, and it proved to be a seminal year for me.

Each applicant has a chance to state three preferred countries. I remember mine as being New Zealand, then Australia... oh, and I suppose, USA. So, USA it was. With a teenage shrug of my shoulders I accepted this, and thought some California sun wouldn't go amiss to a boy growing up in the Home Counties.... Or the bright lights and big city experience of The Big Apple. So, Kansas City it was. Pretty much as famous now, and as visited, as it was in 1982 (despite the efforts of the Chiefs).

Although KC seems to be in the middle of nowhere (I did once stop a car and ask to take a series of pictures, I'd never seen so much nothing in my life), KC is surprisingly active in the exchange field .

. I was one of 57 who travelled there that year, and made friends from around the world, who were also enjoying the delights of unlimited ice-cream, BBQs, weather extremes, 'Walk Don't Walk' signs, ... and an absence of chocolate digestive biscuits.

Typically, an exchange student has a host sibling of their age to help them navigate their way around Senior Year in High School. Atypically, I didn't. I was denied the immediate companionship of a sibling, but given the chance to strike out and forge my own friendships. I was also spared the 'second-half blues' when tensions and jealousies arise. Instead, I found myself in an incredibly loving, supportive, validating family environment with a wide circle of friends. Being a year older, and hence, back then of legal age to procure adult beverages in Kansas (bootlegging? Never heard of it) I was suddenly, albeit fleetingly, popular. Something clicked however, as 43 years later, we still visit each other.

Of my 'family', my 'Mom' and 'Dad' (for whom the inverted commas very quickly disappeared), they themselves were fascinating. Mom, Deena Buckner, was a Community College biology teacher, interested in everything, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, whose Lester heritage could be traced way back, and we found a connection to John Bunyan. Dad, William Buckner, was the son of 4-Star General Buckner (Purple Heart, who led the Okinawa landings (he was taken out by a sniper just a day or so before Armistice). His grandfather was a pall-bearer for Grant. I have sat in Dad's breakfast room area as he explains the letters his family received from 'Martha' (as in Washington). Dad was instrumental in establishing the internationally renowned WWI museum in KC. At 99-years young he is still active, and attended a baseball game with me earlier this year. Mom, very sadly, lost her battle against cancer some 20 years ago.

AFS gave me not only a house, but a home. As an AFS student you learn about your host family, the host country, but most importantly, as an 18-year-old, spending a year away from your birth country (pre-internet days), you learn so much about yourself. Oh, and the advantages of a 'cute accent'.

Every year I re-visit KC, and it's an annual highlight. On my last trip, I was talking to a family that have hosted several times. Their stories match mine for the joy and enrichment that AFS brings. Journeys take many forms, and the 'inner ones', I suggest, lead us to the ones that are more typically celebrated in QV? If ever anyone in your family has an opportunity to engage with AFS, you won't regret it.

The Autumn Social Weekend

3rd-5th October 2025

Mount Hotel

The weather forecast did not bode well for the social weekend, as storm Amy was predicted to arrive on Friday night and into Saturday. She came on cue, causing the closure of one of our recommended visits over the weekend to Wightwick Manor, a National Trust property only 5 minutes from the hotel. Undaunted, a crowd of us met in the bar on Friday evening to catch up with friends old and new. There was a hilarious interlude when it came to ordering dinner, when the restaurant manager tried to get room numbers, not realising that some of us were not actually staying overnight. However, she managed very well and we all enjoyed a pleasant meal together. More laughter greeted the news that Henry Cole had forgotten to pack any undies, and had to make a hasty visit to a late opening supermarket to acquire the necessities!

Next morning, braving wind and rain, a good number visited the RAF museum at Cosford and the pretty town of Bridgnorth.



On Saturday evening everyone joined together for dinner in a private room for a very pleasant meal , after which we were entertained with a talk by Sean Conway.

Sean is an ultra athlete, whose list of achievements defies belief. However, his talk concentrated on his experiences doing Lejog. He became interested , like many of us, due to the exploits of Dr. Barbara Moore and Ian Botham.

At the age of 27, Sean decided that his job as a commercial photographer was not fulfilling him, he needed something to challenge him. His first adventure was cycling Lejog, covering 1300 miles in 25 days. The bike which he bought for this specific ride was a second hand Dawes Horizon which was well disguised by a full load of panniers and bags.



Sean's abridged list of achievements.

2008. Cycled Lejog in 25 days and 1300 miles.

2013. Swam Lejog 135 days, 900 miles.

2015. Ran Lejog .in 44 days, 1011 miles.

2012 cycled around the world in 155 days, and 16000 miles

2016. 4200 miles triathlon. In 85 days

2018. cycled across Europe in 24 days and 3980 miles

2022. The Lap of Wales Triathlon. 13 days and 714 miles.

2023. 105 Triathlons in 105 days.

Phew!