

A photograph of a person wearing a bright green safety vest and dark clothing, standing in a grassy field. To the right of the person is a dense line of tall, thin trees, possibly pines or cypresses. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that filters through the trees. The background shows a hazy landscape with rolling hills or mountains under a clear sky.

HUNNYPOT HUNDRED May 2026

Report & Results

Genesis

Peter Jull – Lead Organiser

After the Cinque Ports 100 everyone on the committee was in the “never again” camp bar me who thought it wasn’t that hard. There was also speculation about the future of the 100 with few groups at the time coming forward to host the event and whether commercial help would be required. I resolved that I’d step forward if there was a gap.

Bored between customers in my shop, I plotted a linear route using familiar paths between the hilliest parts of Kent around Dover & Sevenoaks. A day and a half later, mostly trying to use the plentiful network of village halls in the east of the county to get the distance as close to 100 miles as possible, there was a putative route. Still bored, I pondered on an alternative/back up route.

Having been a supporting artiste (extra) for the filming of “Tulip Fever” at Cobham Hall Girls School I was aware they hired out their facilities and certainly had sufficient parking. So, if that was HQ where could a route go? North was the Thames; west was London and east the Medway Towns conurbation. So south then. North Downs to South Downs appealed as a theme but it needed at least 105 miles. So, the turning point became the Ashdown Forest, an attractive walking area that had featured on Kent’s High Weald Challenge in the past. And, with a weakness for alliteration, Hunnypot Hundred, reflected the Winnie the Pooh connection and his inability to spell. It was serendipitous that Covid and other groups coming forward, pushed back the gap to 2026 and only quite late on was it realised that it would coincide with the centenary of the publication of Winnie the Pooh. But it was seized on as a hook on which to sell the event, even though only the quicker walkers would get to Pooh country in the light.

I find a linear route more purposive to walk, but was prevailed upon that a circular route is easier to organise, so the back up route became the preferred route and was proposed to the NEC. Being less familiar with the paths involved, the period when we weren’t allowed to walk as a group had been used to check them on the ground and the bulk of the route that had been sketched in 2019 was used in 2026. The first choice breakfast stop at Ardingly wasn’t available because they would be starting to set up the show ground for the South of England Agricultural Show three weeks later. Of potential alternatives, Horsted Keynes at 51 miles was considered too soon, leaving Felbridge the only practical option without compromising the route. The local football club with changing rooms just before the village hall were unresponsive to offers of money for their use, so showers couldn’t be offered.

Whilst initially receptive to hosting the event, Cobham Hall proved to be hard to tie down. Volunteers wouldn’t be allowed to use the kitchens and they wouldn’t confirm a booking more than a few months in advance. Another nearby school was approached and additional parking agreed with the rugby club across the road but their catering service also refused access to the kitchens. With their lettings also run by contractors, the decision making for

overnight use broke down. Meopham Leisure Centre had initially been ruled out because of a lack of parking but when approached were so easy to deal with, what had taken 2 years with schools was sorted in 2 weeks. Most of that was finding a local farmer who'd allow use of his field for overflow parking. When, with weeks to go we found that he'd in the meantime sold the field, brought Plan B into play, persuading the neighbouring school to allow use of more of their spaces and the farmer came good with another field to take the balance. So, the event could begin.



Weather



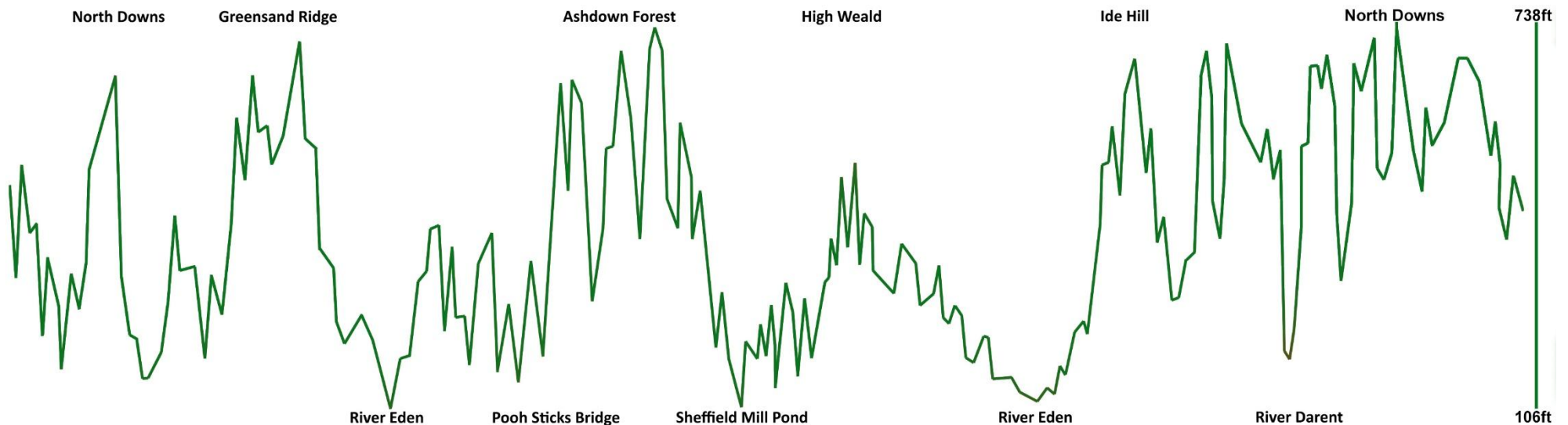
The first 10 weeks of the year had been very wet and the mud, particularly in the Weald, became deeply squelchy, as encountered by many on reconnaissance. Then the drying began and the mud hardened unevenly and fields that were as smooth as the proverbial baby's bottom when first walked were full of rock like hoof holes slowing progress further. When the 14 day forecast reached as far as the main event it was going to be barely 20° with showers. But every day the event came closer the forecast went up a degree, and then another, and another. The weekend news was all about the hottest May days on record and a heatwave and tropical nights. A 100 in the 30s is exceptional and a record but perhaps it was that no-one had had chance to acclimatise that added to the record number of retirees.

Sat 23rd	Sun 24th	Mon 25th
		
20° 10°	21° 11°	21° 11°

The route

Some of the unexpected comments about the route was how green the landscape was. Perhaps locally we take it for granted and don't notice, or the perception from further afield is that Kent is more urbanised, particularly as the route took the 100 inside the M25 for the third time. In fact, the only town touched was Edenbridge and then only the old Roman road High Street and the churchyard. If by green, the amount of woodland is meant, it was a concern at planning stage there was too much and some should be avoided to provide more open views. As it happened the woodland was popular providing very welcome shade, and more trees would have been appreciated. It was expected that Leg 9 from Felbridge to Edenbridge would be the easiest, having the least amount of ascent. But many encountered it during the heat of Sunday afternoon with the open fields providing minimal respite from the scorching sun and was reported as one of the hardest to endure.

With the Cinque Ports having had 25 miles across Romney Marsh with ascent limited almost to the step up a pavement kerb, the intention was always for the route to be comparably hilly to the historic hundred average and the final version had 11250ft of ascent. Coming after 3 relatively flat hundreds, this disabused many of the view that only the north has proper hills. The (exaggerated) route profile warned that a chunk of that ascent would be towards the end to get back over the Greensand Ridge and North Downs to reach the finish. It is disappointing that so many missed out on much of what the route had to offer.



A reconnaissance version of the route description was published as soon as the website went live with the intention that anyone could try the route and feed back any physical issues encountered (at one point two whole vineyards mentioned in the RD disappeared on the ground) and where the wording could be improved, rather than relying on a limited number of people keeping looking at the same bits. It revealed that strident views (often contradictory) are held about what details should be included and what not. It is becoming increasingly clear after all the work of writing a route description, so many never read it anyway but rely entirely on a GPS device. Lesson: more distinctly name the .gpx files as 4 or more tried to follow the Marshals' version where it differed on the last leg. Those devices are also supplanting the use of paper maps and whether a 1² watch screen met the rules requirement, caused some furore. Kent PRoW were persuaded to remove some fallen trees even though their annual budget was overspent. Commendations are due to Andrew Boulden who cleared some lesser obstructions and put out reflective markers on what must have been 6 circumnavigations without getting dizzy.

Winnie the Pooh



Winnie the Pooh appeared in many guises and in many places around the route to cheer walkers on. The theme was cheerfully embraced by checkpointers with decorations and signage



Pooh Sticks

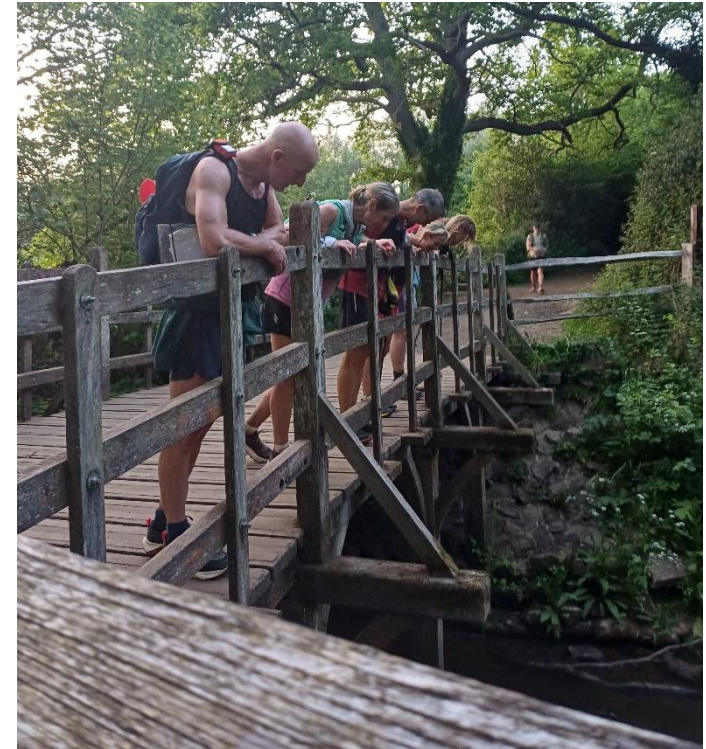
Gwyneth Littlejohn

I volunteered to be the marshal at Pooh Bridge handing out sticks. I was told walkers would not stop to play Pooh Sticks. They did. I had collected suitable sticks a few weeks earlier. Armed with a bag of sticks, I arrived at Pooh bridge at 18.30 (Saturday) about 34.5 miles in on the Hunnypot 100 and 4.5 miles from the previous checkpoint at Cowden. I had a bit of a wait; I knew the walkers were not moving fast due to the heat. I was entertained by bird song. I know about the 'dawn chorus' but had not really experienced the 'dusk chorus'. I live in a town, too many external noises. Sitting in the woods on a fallen tree trunk in the quiet, I listened to an amazing melody of bird calls.

The first walker came through at 19.20. A runner, and yes, he wanted to play Pooh Sticks. For the next 30 minutes there was a slow but steady stream of solo walkers. And most wanted to play Pooh Sticks. Then came the groups of walkers. Some arrived saying they hadn't been able to find any sticks. I had sticks. Some arrived with a stick they had carried for over a mile. There are never any sticks at Pooh Bridge. Everyone uses them. I have been told that the local children collect sticks and sell them to visitors. Now that is initiative.

We played Pooh Sticks into the dark. People seemed pleased to stop for a few moments to have fun; probably a by-product of the heat. One walker threw his stick with some energy up stream; I don't think he had played Pooh Sticks before. It was a magical evening. At one point the bridge was full of walkers playing Pooh Sticks (I had not checked the weight limit). Walkers didn't seem to mind that it was dark and they could not see their sticks. They just claimed the first one through as theirs. Nor did they mind that the stream flow was worse than slow, though there were a few comments about being timed out if their sticks did not appear soon. I could have happily spent the night there but I had a shift back at HQ. I left at 10.30, leaving the remains of my sticks piled up by the bridge. I hope later walkers found them and enjoyed a game of Pooh Sticks.

I was pleased at the finish by how many walkers gave positive feedback and said how much they had enjoyed playing Pooh Sticks.



Catering

The catering role is seen as an onerous one so the plan was to separate its three elements, menu preparation for checkpoints, logistics (ordering the right amounts and getting it where needed), and service at HQ, to avoid having it fall on one person. Having ascertained the facilities at each CP, menus were plagiarised from previous 100s with exact elements picked to provide the maximum variety and shared with checkpointing groups. Suggested amendments came back that would have had many CPs offering much of the same thing. Informed by reception of the offering on the Marshals' walk, compromises were agreed. Limited refrigeration capacity at all CPs was a restricting factor. Refrigeration trailers were arranged for HQ & breakfast.

Wanting to avoid having volunteers isolated from the main event at a separate food distribution point, and having to find people to play checkpoint piles on the Friday before, and hiring crates to move it around, getting food deliveries direct to checkpoints appealed. Of the supermarkets approached if they could deliver in bulk they all said no bar Sainsburys who metaphorically shrugged and said we do it routinely – no problem. With confidence instilled, orders were placed. The postcodes for two checkpoints were not recognised by Sainsburys website so had to be changed to click & collect and it balked at getting two deliveries in the same time slot. But on the day, everything turned up with minimal substitutions at the right place at the right time. Despite having ordered full boxes worth as far as possible to make handling easier, too often they had been broken down to fit loose in the van's crates so the only regret was not having added a few pounds worth of bags for life to each order which would have been highly beneficial later.

The HQ kitchen facilities were nowhere near adequate so a self-use catering trailer was organised. Pie, mash and peas had been well received the year before so the trailer was kitted out to best deliver the same. When it arrived the delivery drivers scarpered before giving the instructions expected and making sure it was working. Neil Mansfield is to be highly commended for working out how to get it going and then working away happily for many hours keeping people fed.



With so many people retiring early, food was not being eaten in the quantities provided and coming back from CPs. It was disheartening to see how much refrigerated food had to be thrown in the skip. What the food bank would take was loaded (more bags needed) on to the kit van and distributed the next day.



As well as honey sandwiches, other honey flavoured treats were provided around the route including honey beer at CP13!

The Entry Secretary and Registration Lead

Helen Strong

This role turned out to be much bigger than I expected — but a genuinely rewarding one.

I joined the Hunnypot committee to take on the role of Entry Secretary, having previously worked with SiE systems on local Challenge events. In practice, the job grew well beyond that original brief, and I ended up also leading the registration team.

Setting up entries through SiE was straightforward. I made sure all the additional data fields we needed were built in from the start, with some helpful guidance from the SiE Team along the way, and the system did exactly what it needed to do without any major hiccups.

As the entry deadline approached, there was, as ever, a flurry of last-minute activity. Two weeks before the event I worked through all outstanding entry changes, closed off any further amendments including start times, and reordered the full entry list alphabetically ready for the tally cards to be printed.

It was at this stage that a sharp-eyed check by Peter caught an error before it went any further — the tally cards had picked up distances from the Marshals' walk rather than the Hunnypot 100 itself. It was a useful reminder that a second pair of eyes on anything going to print is always time well spent, and I'm grateful to Peter for catching it when he did.

In the weeks before the event I had a steadily increasing stream of enquiries from entrants, mostly about kit, mapping, and clothing rules — the usual questions that come with any Hundred. The vast majority were easily answered, and it was good to help newer participants find their way around what can seem like a lot of information to take in before their first Hundred.

I also set up a WhatsApp group for the checkpoint leads and HQ, which worked well, particularly in the run-up to the event, and gave us a quick and easy way to keep everyone connected. There's scope to refine how we use it for next time, but as a first attempt it did the job.





In the week before the event, we were also increasingly concerned about the weather forecast for the weekend – with the potential for temperatures to increase to the low 30s degrees centigrade. At that point we had no idea just how much of an impact the hot weather would have on the participants.

On the day itself, I took charge of the registration team, which was split across three stations. Having organised all the paperwork needed for the registration process, and briefed the registration team, we opened up registration on time. Kit declaration was staffed by two volunteers; in hindsight, a slightly larger team here, or combining it with the main registration desk, would ease the pressure at what is always a busy pinch-point first thing in the morning. Registration ran across five tables and worked smoothly throughout. The tracker station, with six volunteers briefed by Richard on fitting and operation, also ran very well — a real credit to

Richard's preparation and to the volunteers who gave up their time to help entrants get set up correctly before heading out. All entrants were through registration by 9:45, which was our aim and a good result given the numbers involved and a real testament to the volunteers on those tables.

I'd originally planned to get out on the course during the day to visit checkpoints and see friends and to catch up with participants out on the route, but in the end, I spent most of the day at HQ, which is where I was needed most. I did manage to slip home briefly to eat and rest over the two nights, which meant I came back fresher at 3am and this was beneficial for the last hours of the event — a small thing, but one I'd recommend to anyone taking on a similar role in future.

Looking back, the entries and registration process went well overall, and I want to thank everyone who helped make it happen: Peter, for his sharp eye on the tally cards and his support throughout; Richard, for his excellent briefing of the tracker volunteers; and all the registration, kit check, and tracker volunteers who gave up their time on the day. Events like the Hunnypot 100 only run as smoothly as they do because of people like them.



For anyone taking on this role in future, my main pieces of advice would be: get your SiE setup done as early as you can, build in a second check on anything that goes to print, and don't be afraid to step away from HQ for even a short break if the day allows it — you'll be better for it later on.

Overall, I really enjoyed the challenge of the role, and I'm proud of how the entries and registration process came together for what was a memorable Hunnypot 100.

Transport

With no conveniently located vehicle hire depot it was planned that drivers would pick up locally to them, drive to HQ and take it home after the event. A call out for volunteers gave us access to East Grinstead Scouts' 16 seat minibus and an 8 seater was hired commercially from Tunbridge Wells because not all volunteers had a licence for a larger vehicle. It was calculated that this capacity would exceed what was needed for a retirement rate up to 35% apart from perhaps a short period on the Sunday which would soon be caught up with. It is doubtful any plan would have delivered the service level aspired to given that the number of retirees turned out to be the highest ever recorded. The minibuses had trackers on them but they appear in outline only on the screen making them hard to spot and contributed to the frustration of not being able to pass on expected arrival times. Where drivers keen to do more have had to be prised from vehicles on previous 100s – not this time; they were more than fully employed.

Plans to get a man and van to move the bags to breakfast in one go were abandoned when it was learned that a Luton van into which they would easily fit physically has a load capacity well below the 3 tons 500 bags could amount to. The van bringing the 100 kit from where it had overwintered in Deal was upgraded from the standard Transit into which it had fitted coming from Ipswich to a medium commercial van which actually had a higher weight capacity than a Luton because of the smaller body but same chassis. As well as shifting the breakfast bags in 2 trips this transpired to be beneficial as the volume of disposable plates, mugs etc that accumulated with the kit went beyond what would have fitted in a smaller van. After one driver became unavailable, the 2nd van was rebooked from Canterbury a week before with no indication of limited availability. When the driver went to collect it on the Friday, a message had been sent just an hour before that no van was available. Also, they had no vans of any type at any of their depots in Kent. Enterprise had easily been the most amenable to extra drivers not present at pickup so this was a big blot on their copybook. The best they could offer was the biggest car they had which was sufficient for some planned duties but not collecting rubbish and leftovers, the quantities of which had ballooned with early retirees not getting to CPs to eat provisions. This led to a lot of replanning on the hoof being needed during the event.



Records Broken

The hottest 100 so far.

The highest proportion of retirees for 50 years

The highest number of retirees ever.

The most vineyards on route

Len Fallick's record of 43 successive completions ended

The slowest time for the first finisher since the 2014 Valleys 100



First Aid

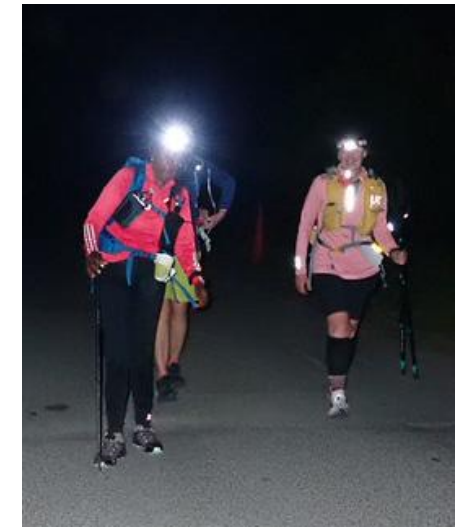
Challenge First Aid who specialise in endurance events made this aspect of the organisation so easy. Book them and leave them to it. Not only were they at HQ but moved around the route with the walkers so they were at each checkpoint. And when walkers succumbed to heat or other cause out on the route, they were ready and mobile to go to the rescue



The Lean



The Martyn Greaves funded team investigating the cause of Long Distance Walkers Leaning Over Syndrome led by George Roberts from Newcastle University used the Hunnypot 100 to collect data from how the lean manifested itself during the event. Back at HQ it seemed like a smaller proportion of finishers had the lean than on some previous 100s. Perhaps those who would have developed the lean retired for other reasons earlier on. Hopefully this didn't hamper the research.



Sadly Missed

Brian Buttifant

Kent's life president came on a visit to a prospective HQ at the start of the planning process but succumbed to illness too soon to do more. He would have delighted in seeing the route pass through his home village where he had been a parish councillor for over 50 years. The route did pass the bench his family erected where he most enjoyed his view of life over Kemsing.

Hazel Bound

Such a stalwart of 100 checkpointing passing away suddenly as the 100 approached came as a shock but the Cornwall & Devon team pulled together to ensure walkers still felt the care and encouragement she was renowned for around the 75 mile mark. Her decades of contributing were applauded at the start.

Peter Johnson

The puzzle as to why the outwardly fit and reliable checkpointeer had not turned up when expected was resolved when a message came through during the morning that he had not survived a heart attack the evening before. Undoubtedly his planned contribution to the baggage team was missed.

Thank yous

Particular thanks are due to those who had faith in the project for their invaluable contributions through the planning process and going beyond what they thought they had signed up for:

Andrew Boulden: Route checking & sweepers

Neil Higham: Control desk & registration

Jim Briggs: Checkpoints & Marshals' walk

Marion Mueller: Supermarkets, catering & control desk

Dawn Jones: Menus

Steph LeMen: Marshals' Walk & banking

Helen Strong: Entries, registration & control desk

Cathy Waters: Checkpoint liaison & kit distribution

& Anne Wade: Wise counsel as 100s Co-ordinator

Event weekend

Baggage: Chris Blackwell • Gareth Davies • Ron Doole • Malcolm Dyke • Carrie Gaston • William Lantry • Martin Lawson • Neal O'Rourke • Lesley Peel • Peter Russell • Glyn Sawford • John Sparshatt • Wendy Thurrell • Suzanne Waldschmidt • Dave Williams • Graham Wright

Catering: Charlotte Armes • Aimee Dack • Ken Fancett • Ros Humphreys • Neil Mansfield • Eve Richards • Sarah Turner

Crossing Marshals: Paul Lawrence • Dave Sheldrake • Rex Stickland

Finish Desk: Ben Connolly • Isobel Falconer • Ken Falconer • Michael Headley • Gwyneth Littlejohn • Richard May • Elaine Oddie

HQ: James Clayton • Andy Dack • Jeff Golland • Emma Greig • Fiona Harrington • Sarah Heal • Keith Mills • Don Newman • John Pennifold • Gaby Perrett • Ian Scott • Nicky Wood

Parking: Ron Doole • James Clayton • Alan Leadbetter • David Jacques • Roy Jacques • Dale Moorhouse • David Thornton

Registration: Charlotte Armes • Aimee Dack • Andy Dack • Isobel Falconer • Ken Falconer • Emma Finch • Emma Greig • Michael Headley • Sarah Heal • Gwyneth Littlejohn • Rex Stickland • Caroline Wandless • Roger Wandless

Sweeping: Julian Brown • Melissa Butcher • Ron Doole • Clare Evans • Isobel Falconer • Ken Falconer • Shu Foster • Jo Miles • Graham Smith • Colin Utting

Transport: Martin Brice • Anne Brown • Rupert Connolly • Peter Cowlyn • Nick Eaton • Tony Hobbs • Alan Leadbetter • Andrew Melling • Rex Stickland • Madelaine Watson • Rob Woodward

And thank you to all those who saw something that needed to be done and stepped in to help, and to the checkpointers listed below.

The Checkpoint Lead

Cathy Waters

I took on the role of Checkpoint lead, not having had any experience in organising the annual 100 challenge event before. I expected it would be a considerable amount of work – and it was! But I was very grateful to Jim Briggs from the Kent group who helped with all the major tasks involved: drafting the template for information to be collected regarding each checkpoint; joining me on inspections of all 13 checkpoints; and providing feedback on draft versions of the checkpoint handbooks. Peter Jull dealt with all bookings of CP venues, so this was not part of my brief.

Jim and I inspected the CPs over an 18-month period, beginning in Autumn 2024. Early inspection was vital to rule out unsuitable venues; but the earlier the inspection, the greater the possibility of information becoming out of date. In the absence of a Catering lead for the HPH, it was also difficult to anticipate what cooking facilities would be required at each CP.

The first draft of the Handbook for each CP was sent to the relevant CP lead in November 2025. A second draft, incorporating menus and shopping lists, was sent in February 2026 and the final draft was sent in April, a month before the main event. Although I had planned to capture all relevant information in a single Handbook for each CP, this proved impracticable and the final Checkpoint pack consisted of 8 documents:

1. Checkpoint Handbook
2. Checkpoint photos in PDF
3. Risk Assessment
4. Manual Recording – Arrivals
5. Manual Recording – Master
6. Allergen advice sheet
7. OS map of route around the CP
8. TEN (where relevant)

As the bank holiday weekend for the main event approached and weather forecasts were for high temperatures in the South East, the leads for the various CP teams swung into action and improvised brilliantly to help keep walkers as cool as possible in the circumstances: wet towels, spray bottles of water, last minute adjustments to menus and so on all helped. A huge thank you to all of the CP teams for your hard work and support. Special thanks to Mary Dee and the Surrey team who were running the breakfast checkpoint for the first time at Felbridge. The compliments on the HPH

Facebook page attest to your success. Thanks too to the Heart of England team who improvised an extra drinks stop in Knole Park. I know this was very welcome to hot and thirsty walkers. I hope I have not inadvertently omitted any volunteers from the lists below. You are all stars!

THE CHECKPOINT TEAMS

CP 1 Addington Village Hall 9.3 miles – East Yorkshire

Jonathan Derwanz (lead) • John Philips • John Backhouse • Lisette Backhouse • Jean Fowler • Frank Fowler • Martin Blundell • Anita Blundell, • Zoe Matsell



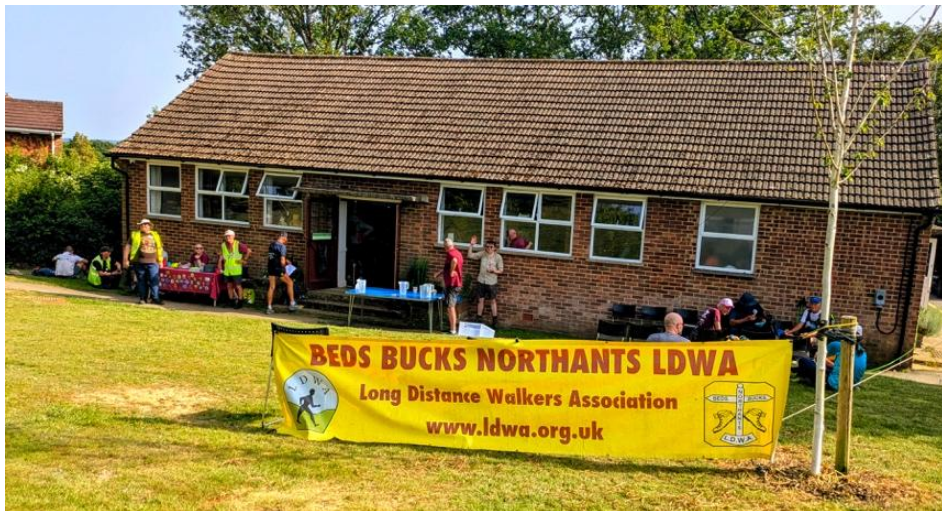
CP 2 Ightham Village Hall 14.4 miles – Heart of England

David Hood (lead) • Rupert Connolly (lead) • Anne Wade • Vaughn Wade • Yvonne Court • Bob Court • Ben Connolly • Elizabeth Connolly • Carol Fisher • Clive Wainwright • David Tame • Linda Hood • Lynda Broadway • Mike Anstey • Sally Hicks • Richard Hicks • Rob Barclay • Pam Manning • Michael Jones • Peter Telford



CP 3 Weald Memorial Village Hall 21.7 miles – Beds, Bucks, & Northants

Jim Blakelock (lead) • Dave Findel-Hawkins • Merrian Lancaster • Alan Leadbetter • Paul Keech • Norman Corrin • Dee Brockway • Graham & Jane Bayes • Liz Sheffield • Terry Brown • Brian & Sheila Chandler • Pam Wheeler • Colin Hussey • Paul Lawrence • Julian Brown • Jo Miles



CP 4 Cowden Memorial Hall 30.6 miles – Essex & Herts

Jackie Burnett (lead) • Tracy Cottis (lead) • John Burnett • Lizzie Bridges • Linda Fordham • Elaine Oddie • Alison Clark • Lou Heatley • Peter Tremain

Kit Check

Gill Struthers (lead) • Tracy Cottis (lead) • Rob Struthers • Heidi Miller • Peter Tremain • Peter Aylmer • Jill Crown • Paul Kitson • David Dawson • Scott Sawyer



CP 5 St John's Church Hall Crowborough 39.8 miles – Sussex

Jane Bates (lead) • Roger Bates • Sonia Edwards • Nicky Dawkins • Peter Hedgethorpe • Steve Hewitt • Chris Kennedy • Anthony Mitchell • Julia Abadi • Mione Palmer • Judith Bowron



CP 6 Nutley War Memorial Hall 46.1 miles – Northumbria

Lesley Bellis (lead) • Gilly Humphreys • Dave Clifton • Gail Nellist • Lucy Nellist • Evie • Wendy Younge • Janet Pitt-Lewis • Tom Sellers



CP 7 Martindale Centre, Horsted Keynes 52.2 miles – Norfolk & Suffolk

Chelle Armour (lead) • Hilary Magnall • Jane Audsley • Shu Foster • Yvonne Osbourne • Roger Osbourne • Jayne Cook • Michael Fletcher • Ron Richardson • Sarah Cullimore • Pam Manning



CP 8 Felbridge Village Hall 61.1 miles – Surrey

Mary Dumble (lead) • Alastair Charlesworth • Bill Boughton • Cathy Turton • Debbie Wilkes • Fiona McNicol • Henri de Bossart • Jackie Barker • James Blogg • Jennie de Bossart • John Goody • Jude Unsworth • Mike Tuke • Paul Riordan • Roger Sage • Sharon Riordan • Steve Ford • Sue Charlesworth • Ted Swift • Tim Bedwell • Tony Cartwright • Vincent McDonnell



CP 9 Nomads FC, Edenbridge 70 miles – Dorset with Wiltshire

Janette Armstrong (lead) • Jo Walker • Clare Staff • Clive Franklin • Jaqui Tyzack • Caroline Longley • Di Cross • Angela Johnson • Tom Griffins • Ian Brown • Robert Powell • Maria Drummond • Jo Christianson • Lucy Robins • John Walker • Henny Clare



CP 10 Ide Hill Village Hall 74.8 miles – Cornwall & Devon

Annette Merchant (lead) • Rose Wood • Gill Kingwell • Barry Olver • Rose Olver • David Graham • Tim Crosby • Jayne Ryan • Lynda Geach. Nigel Green
• Brian Guy • Paula Murphy • Kieran Ryan



CP 11 Halstead Pavilion 83 miles – North Yorkshire

Roger Wandless (lead) • Caroline Wandless (lead) • Stephen Hall • Janice Barker • Dave Jacques • Roy Jacques • Roger Mahony • Ralph Warman



CP 12 Kemsing Village Hall 88.7 miles – The Irregulars

Peter Bruniges (lead) • Alan Tinker • Brian Campbell • Michael Abbott • Peter Wood • Richard Measures • Sara Dyer • Steve Webb • Jean Bobker • Pom Ngamchaiyaphum • Skye Chamnanpuen



CP 13 Hodsoll Street Village Hall 95.4 miles – David Findel-Hawkins & friends

Dave Findel-Hawkins (lead) • Merrian Lancaster (lead) • Terry Brown • Martin Lawson • Huw Davies • Glynn Sawford • April Sawford • Jenny & Ken Wyles • Elizabeth Connolly • Madeleine Watson



Marshals' Walk

Steph LeMen

The Marshals' Event was jointly organised by Jim and myself and held over the first May Bank Holiday (2–4 May). We chose to use the same checkpoints and menus as the main event as a test run to see how well this approach would work.

Securing a headquarters venue for the main event had been challenging, and the Marshals' Event proved no different. Several nearby village halls and church halls—ideal in theory—declined our requests. Fortunately, we were able to book the Scout Hut, located about a mile and a half north of the Leisure Centre, the HQ for the main event. Working with them was straightforward, and the location offered several advantages: a small car park plus ample on-street parking, space for walkers to camp behind the building and less than a 10-minute walk from Meopham train station

Once the venue was confirmed, my main tasks were:

- Recruiting volunteers for checkpoints and transport. Katie Hunt (Flower of Suffolk Hundred organiser) kindly emailed the Flower of Suffolk marshals to encourage them to contact me if they could help, and I received many offers as a result. She also suggested adding an option on SIEntries for walkers to indicate if they were willing to volunteer—an excellent idea that proved very effective.

- Adapting the main route to start from the Scout Hut. I produced two versions, which Jim and Helen Strong recce'd; both voted for the flatter option! Jim's responsibilities focused on ordering food and trackers—far more demanding tasks than I had anticipated. We decided to arrange Sainsbury's deliveries directly to checkpoints where possible. Jim spent many days and evenings coordinating with checkpoint teams to refine menus and organise deliveries and collection slots and many updates. He also handled the tracker order and familiarised himself with their operation. We were both exhausted in the lead-up to the event. I am extremely grateful to Jim for co-organising; his attention to detail prevented several potential issues (although we both missed the fact that one checkpoint had no pan!).

On the day, we had 42 starters, including one walker aiming for a 20th completion—Michelle Armour, who successfully achieved it. In the spirit of the Hunnypot 100, some of us wore Winnie-the-Pooh hairbands, though the Heart of England team outdid us with full Winnie-the-Pooh outfits.



A valley the main event didn't see



Walkers set off under glorious sunshine. However, months of wet weather followed by a sudden dry spell had left many paths churned up and ankle twistingly baked rock-hard. Heavy showers on Saturday night created slippery sections, adding to the difficulty of an already hilly and complicated route. As a result: many were disappointed with their times; retirements were higher than usual (10); and several walkers were badly affected by the lean. There were some very emotional completions.

Our transport team was outstanding, collecting retirees from various checkpoints without a single complaint.

Initially, I thought sweepers would be unnecessary because we were using trackers. However, Claire Bass volunteered to sweep the last twenty miles, and I am very glad she did—she motivated the final two walkers to reach the finish. I would strongly recommend always using sweepers for the Marshals' Event.

Jim and I are deeply grateful to all volunteers, who worked long hours and gave tremendous support throughout the weekend. This year, it was agreed that marshals would have their travel and accommodation costs refunded up to half the entry price, which is well deserved.

HQ/Transport:

Stephanie Le Men (HQ)

Jim Briggs (HQ)

David Thornton (HQ cook)

Marion Muller (HQ)

Sarah Turner (HQ)

Peter Jull (HQ + transport)

Cathy Waters (HQ)

Judy Rickwood/ Andy (HQ + transport)

Alan Leadbetter (car park)

Nicola Burston (transport)

Alan Stewart (transport)

Claire Bass (sweeper)

Special thanks to Andrew Boulden who improved the route description and added reflectors for the night times sections on many indistinct paths before the Marshals' event.



A newly fallen tree removed before the main event

Checkpoints:

CP1: Deirdre Flegg, Sara Dyer, Jan Williams, Alan Mattison

CP2: lead by Elizabeth Connolly (Heart Of England)

CP3: Roma Haighes, Brian Layton, Ron Doole, Alzbetha Benn

CP4: Lisa Walbridge, Jared Walbridge, Kirsteen Newell, Dave Wells, Andy Taylor, Virginia Powell

CP5: Jane Bates, Elaine Battson, Cyril Williams, Wesley McCullough, Ron Richardson

CP6: Ken Grose, Linda Geach, Alan Leadbetter, Anthony Mitchell

CP7: Richard Haynes, Sue Gooch, David Spring, Andrew Disley

CP8: South Manchester (Helen Gray)

CP9: Deborah Heighes, Elaine Campbell, Caroline Crolla

CP10: Jill Green, Jim Catchpole, Darren Walsh, Jo Dunsford

CP11: Andrew Beck, Roma Haighes, Brian Layton, Ron Doole

CP12: Deirdre Flegg, Sara Dyer, Jan Williams, Alan Mattison, Shirley Hume

CP13: Merrian Lancaster, David Findel-Hawkins & Friends



Passing Luddesdown cricket club





Chestnut Walk, Knole Park



Figurative chart of the successive retirements on the LDWA Hunnypot 100 — May 2026

A 100-mile loop through Kent and the Ashdown Forest.

471 started · 209 finished · 262 retired.

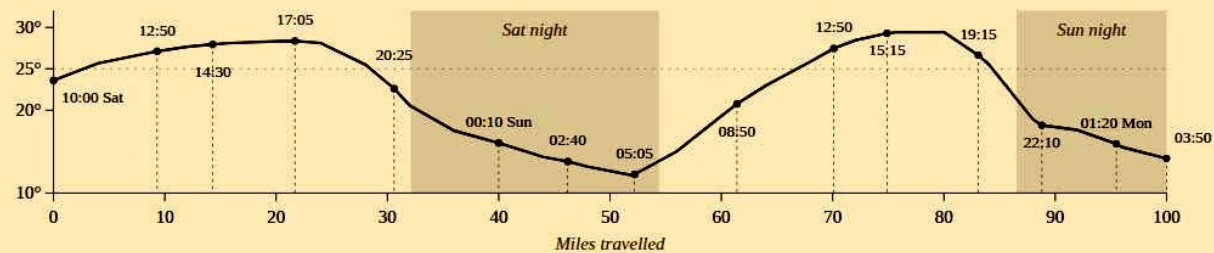
The width of the coloured zone represents the number of walkers still on the route at the named checkpoint.



"I always get to where I'm going by walking away from where I have been."

— Winnie-the-Pooh

Temperature and time of day at each checkpoint (median walker)



Inspired by Charles Joseph Minard, 1869. Sources: LDWA Hunnypot Hundred 2026; Track-Trail-Live finisher times; ERA5 reanalysis via Open-Meteo.