



LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

Kent Group

aims: to further the interests of those who enjoy long distance walking

NEWSLETTER



Kent Group on the pre-AGM walk near Elham
on 30th January 2000

Number 51

April 2000

LDWA KENT GROUP PROGRAMME APRIL - OCTOBER 2000

MON APR 3 THE PROVENDER, ULCOMBE, GR853486, 8 P.M.

SUN APR 16 THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT
c. 21ml. Meet Battle Railway Station, GR 755156, 8.30 a.m. Pub stop.
Leaders: Neal and Jan O'Rourke ()

SAT APR 29 - MON MAY 1 MILLENNIUM HUNDRED MARSHALS' WALK
Offers of help to Neal O'Rourke () Staggered start (to avoid cliff-top walking in the dark) from Wye Village Hall (GR150468). Entrants will be given suggested start times and fast walkers/runners may be held at the Breakfast Stop until first light.

MON MAY 8 A BARNETT MEMORIAL BUMBLE
c. 6ml. Meet 7p.m. Rose and Crown, Wrotham, GR612592 for a gentle stroll before joining the monthly gathering. Leader (d.v.) Tom Sinclair ()

SAT MAY 13 ST. MARY'S NORTH DOWNS CHALLENGE
c. 20ml (15, 10 and 5 ml routes also on offer) Send an S A E for an entry form to:-
Mike Cursons, ()

SUN MAY 21 THE BARNETT MEMORIAL BASH
c. 15ml. Over Peter's old training ground. Meet 9 a.m. Park in road by Bedonwell School (GR484778) close to Pauline Barnett's house at () If you don't know the way use Pathfinder 1176; London A to Z or arrange to come with someone who does know the way. Pub stop (hopefully) but bring own food. Pauline is kindly providing tea in her garden after the walk. Phone Ernie Bishop () with any enquiries.

SAT 27 - MON MAY 29 THE MILLENNIUM HUNDRED
Offers of help to Kevin Puttock () STILL NOT TOO LATE..

MON JUN 5 PAUL'S POST HUNDRED PROVENDER PLOD
c. 6ml. Meet 7 p.m. at The Provender, Ulcombe, GR853486, for an evening stroll before joining the monthly gathering. Leaders Paul & Mary Hatcher ()

MON JUL 3 THE ROSE & CROWN, GR612592, 8 P.M.

SUN JUL 16 WEDNESDAY WRINKLIES WEST KENT KANTER
c. 20ml. Meet Ide Hill c.p., GR488517, O.S. Landranger 188, 8.00 to 8.30 a.m. to collect grid references and questions from organisers Laurie Lowe () Jean Dunton and Shirley Higgins. BRING OWN FOOD AND DRINK, map, compass, pancel and paper. The answers should be obvious at each grid reference so ENJOY IT.

WED JUL 26 IVAN'S EVENING ITINERARY
c. 6/7 ml. Meet 7 p.m. The George c.p., Trottiscliffe, GR641599, O.S. Landranger 188.
Leader: Ivan Waghorn ()

SUN JUL 30

HIGH WEALD MARSHALS' WALK

c. 25ml. For those helping on Main Event. Meet at Commemoration Hall, Wadhurst, GR641318, for 8.30 a.m. Start. Entry forms available at monthly gatherings or send an

S.A.E. to:- Ernie Bishop, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NEW ROUTE. Entry Fee £2

SUN AUG 6

HIGH WEALD WALK

Offers of help to Ernie Bishop ([REDACTED])

MON AUG 7

THE PROVENDER, ULCOMBE, GR853486, 8 P.M.

SUN AUG 20

PENSHURST PERAMBULATION

c.20 ml. Meet 7.45 a.m. for 8.00 a.m. Start at c.p. on South Side of Penshurst Station, Chiddingstone Causeway, GR 519465, O.S Explorer 147, Landranger 188. Approach from B.2176. Pub Stop. Food available. Leader: Shirley Higgins [REDACTED]

SAT/SUN SEP 2/3

WEALDEN WATERS MARSHALS' WALK

For those helping on Main Event. For an entry form send an s a e to: Hilary Thornborough, [REDACTED]

COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN.....PAUL HATCHER ([REDACTED])
SECRETARY.....TOM SINCLAIR ([REDACTED])
TREASURER.....NEIL HIGHAM ([REDACTED])

MEMBERS

TOM BOWMAN ([REDACTED]) BRIAN BUTTIFANT ([REDACTED])
NEAL O'ROURKE ([REDACTED]) HILARY and ROGER THORNBURGH
[REDACTED] and KEITH WARMAN ([REDACTED])

Dear Fellow Kent Group Members,

Thanks to Bryan Clarke for the cover photograph and to Pat and him for arranging the production of this edition. Thanks to all those who have undertaken to lead social walks but, apart from the W.W.W., September, October, November and December are blank at the moment Thanks to all contributors - not least Shirley Higgins with her crossword..

Those of you who were at the A.G.M. will have heard the sad news of the death, a fortnight beforehand, of John Probert. I was pleased to hear that the Group had been well represented at the funeral. For the benefit of those who were unable to attend the A.G.M. the Minutes, along with a copy of my report which was circulated at the meeting, are enclosed. I am very grateful to Neil Higham for preparing them on my behalf. I am also very grateful to the "White Cliffs Four" (Clays & Carters) for undertaking the catering arrangements - glowing reports have reached me.

Contributions for the August 2000 issue by 3rd July 2000 to:
Tom Sinclair, [REDACTED]

National AGM - Weymouth, 10-12 March, 2000

Thanks to the kindness of Paul (driver) and Mary (navigation) Hatcher, I was transported to this year's AGM weekend in comfort whilst Jenny was able to "do her own thing" knowing that I was in good hands.

After an uneventful journey we were soon unpacked and chatting to friends, amongst them Terry and Hazel Bound, so you may not be surprised to learn that provisional arrangements have been made for the Kent group to run a checkpoint on the Exmoor Hundred in 2003 - Monksilver village hall at 73 miles.

The arrangements for the weekend were splendidly made by Geoff Saunders in conjunction with members of Dorset Group generally and Graham Hemsley, Group Secretary, who led the 25 mile walk and his wife Madeleine who led a 9-miler round Portland Bill, in particular. Paul and Mary partook of the 19 mile option, which incorporated parts of the Dorset Dodde in reverse. A 13-miler was also on offer and a drive to local places of interest for a few who were injured. I chose a solitary walk along the beach to the harbour where I found a group of young people climbing the rigging on the sail training ship "Stavros S Niarchos" and a trawler marked "Bard, Lerwick".

The food in the hotel was excellent and the service good-humoured, e.g. a Scots waiter on being asked for more milk responded "Aye, I'll just go out the back and give Daisy a wee squeeze".

To more serious matters..... Sunday morning was taken up with the AGM at which there were a few questions about the accounts, all those nominated were duly appointed (see insert in the December 1999 "Strider") and the two constitutional amendments, changing "conduct" to "wilful negligence" and deleting "31st December" as the end of the financial year, were approved.

The proposal to introduce postal voting was taken before the proposal to increase the annual sub from £7 to £8 w.e.f. 01-01-2001 and provoked a healthy debate and a large measure of support but not the required majority (75%) for a change in the Constitution. However the upshot is that the new Committee is mandated to explore more democratic methods of selection, bearing in mind all the many points raised in the course of discussion.

There was a well supported move towards raising the subscription to £10 but ultimately the meeting was not fully convinced of the need for such a large increase at the moment and, given the choice of an increase of £3 or nil, chose the latter. In other words the level of subscription will remain at £7 (Family £15, Associate £21) until 31-12-2001 and will be reviewed in the usual way at the AGM in March 2001.

Other Kent Group members present over the weekend included Alan Knight, Les Maple, Brian Russell, Ann Sayer and Avril Stapleton and it was particularly pleasing to see Ivan and Susan Verrell who drove up from Devon on Sunday morning for the AGM

Tom Sinclair. 16-03-2000.

PLEASE HELP TREVOR TRACK DOWN EQUIPMENT

We have an electric urn somewhere out there! Whoever has it has forgotten to inform Trevor Blake, our Equipment Control Manager. Are you making early morning tea with it or has it disappeared into a 'junk corner'?? It will be needed for the Millennium Hundred Marshals' walk at the end of April. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE if this should ring a bell in the far recesses of your mind could you let Trevor know? There will be no fine or recriminations, honest!!! Also missing since the last Sevenoaks Circular are some clippers which will be needed for the Millennium Hundred Marshals' walk. These are stored by Bryan Clarke, please let him or Trevor know that you have them.

RE PETE BARNETT'S OBITUARY

("Farewell to a Friend" - Newsletter December 1999)

Most of us knew Pete's achievements as an athlete but how many realised that he was a Skilled Craftsman in his 'other life'? Once I discovered his talents he was often to be found at our works repairing, renewing or rebuilding. His skills ranged through plumber, builder, woodworker, roofer, etc. All these things were done with his usual bonhomie and humour and we also enjoyed the pleasure of his company at break times. A replacement will be hard to find.

BC

WHAT IS A 'KANTER'? Find out at Ide Hill on the 16th July!

I tried to look up the word "kanter" in my Collins dictionary but was unable to find it. I then realised that the term "kanter" originated way back in the early history of the LDWA. In those far-off times the LDWA and the Surrey group were almost synonymous and it seems possible that the Surrey tribe were weak on spelling, with the result that this spelling became established in the names of events such as "The Surrey Inns Kanter".

However, I did find the word "canter" in my dictionary. This is defined as "an easy three-beat gait of horses, between a trot and a gallop in speed. [Short for 'Canterbury Trot', the supposed pace at which pilgrims rode to Canterbury] Perhaps those pilgrims coming from Winchester "kantered" through Surrey and then "cantered" across Kent to their destination in Canterbury. I must stress that in an LDWA kanter, you are NOT required to proceed at a pace to match the three-beat gait of a horse!

A kanter, in LDWA parlance, is an organised event in which the entrants are required to navigate themselves between a number of points on the map as defined by a series of grid references. You may run, jog, walk or saunter between the checkpoints! At each of the grid references there is a simple question to be answered to prove that you have found the correct place. You do not need to be a genius to be able to answer the questions - the answer will be obvious once you are in the correct place. Example:- Name of house at T-junction, number on telephone pole by gate, how many horizontal bars in gate, etc. The clever bit is in plotting the grid references correctly, deciding the best route between them, and the ability to read a map.

Interested in giving it a go? The Wednesday Wrinklies (Shirley Higgins, Jean Dunton Tom Sinclair and Laurie Lowe) invite you to take part in "The Wednesday Wrinklies West Kent Kanter (WWW.KK!) This will take place on 16th July from the Ide Hill village hall car park (toilets!) GR 488 517. Route details (a list of about 10 grid references) will be handed out from 8 to 9 am. You will need Explorer sheet 147 or Landranger sheets 187 & 188 or Pathfinders 1208 & 1228. Also bring compass and pen or pencil. You plot the grid references, decide the best way to link them and then set off. The checkpoints can be linked in any order. Carry food and drink sufficient for your needs. We hope to set up one simple refreshments stop at about the halfway point, but don't rely on this! The checkpoints have been chosen carefully so as to give a choice of routes between them, and to discourage road walking. The area covered by the route has a good network of well-maintained paths and bridleways. The distance covered in order to connect all of the checkpoints will be about 20 miles. KOME AND KANTER WITH YOUR KENT KOLLEAGUES!

Laurie Lowe.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD compiled by High Sin Girl, yes!

Solutions to the compiler by June 20th.

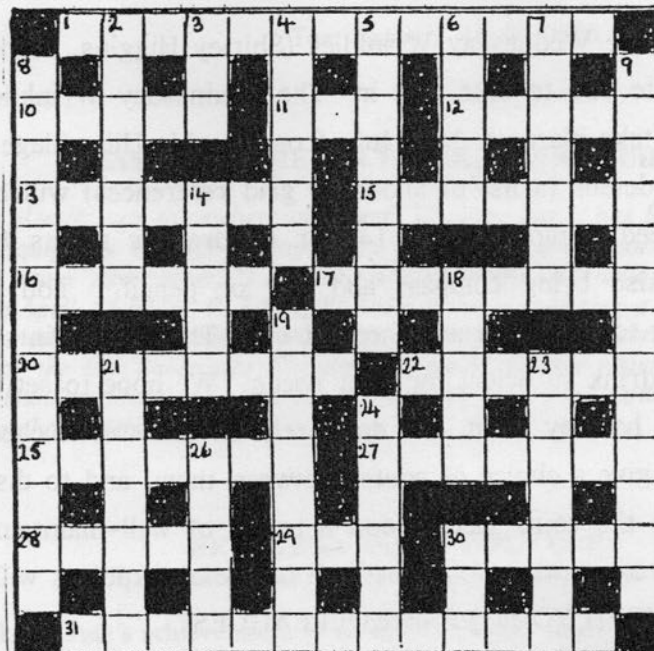
Small prize for first correct solution drawn from the map case.

ACROSS

- 1 Smooth route round hospital is a dead end. (2,7,4)
- 10 Friends found in intimate stance. (5)
- 11 Which person is a doctor? (3)
- 12 Point to valley where former chairman lives. (5)
- 13 Result of lengthy visit to pub? Naughty, embracing hint of a kiss. (7)
- 15 More untidy. Chaos! That is right. (7)
- 16 Hundred missing from lake district in Italy. (6)
- 17 United Nations conquered, but hold the record. (8)
- 20 Dubious gun money for immature fellows. (5,3)
- 22 Device for string circuit. (6)
- 25 Do this to find the way. Works like a dream perhaps, initially. (3-4)
- 27 Cut sweet talk (language!). (7)
- 28 At the front of the field, we hear, in Yorkshire. (5)
- 29 Start of lament or expression of surprise. (3)
- 30 Iron out a wrinkle, it's said. (5)
- 31 Red and blue won over this man of Kent. (6,7)

DOWN

- 2 I let Rob work for German company. (7)
- 3 Owns part of church assets. (3)
- 4 Flower of Suffolk? (6)
- 5 Horse carries soil in twilight. (8)
- 6 Animal is up at bend in water plants. (5)
- 7 A student of Afro-Asiatic culture is a brat possibly. (7)
- 8 May be same endless blurb (garbled) for Wiltshire event. (8,5)
- 9 On the last lap, not far from possible gin at the finish. (7,3,3)
- 14 Throw a wild party. (5)
- 18 Liam returns after European communication. (1-4)
- 19 Late southern depression is hardly moving. (4,4)
- 21 Many produce pet menu to be prepared. (7)
- 23 Row after insect makes direct approach. (7)
- 24 Source, beginnings of extra money, but rules you out! (6)
- 26 Disturbed Norse painter. (5)
- 30 Everyone is in middle of snowball fight. (3)



SOCIAL WEEKENDS

For many years various members of the group have enjoyed a social weekend in the Brecon Beacons. Unfortunately this years gathering had to be cancelled at the last minute due to staffing difficulties at the Dannywenallt Centre.

The Brecons have always represented a good place to visit in the winter due to the challenge of the hills and perhaps more importantly the convenient travel arrangements i.e. door to door less than 4 hours for the majority of those attending. Other venues have been mentioned i.e. Lake/Peak District, North Wales but alas this would entail a greater distance to travel for a weekend especially if the workers were not able to take Friday off as holiday.

At the AGM it was agreed that similar weekends would be a good idea in the future if a suitable number of people expressed an interest i.e. minimum of 15. January has been the preferred choice in the past although this is not cast in stone.

I am seeking an idea of how many people would be interested in joining me if something could be arranged for the early part of next year. Suggestions for venues would also be welcome especially if you have stumbled across something suitable on your travels!

I look forward to hearing from you.

Andrew Boulden - [REDACTED]

STOP PRESS

A meeting of the Escape Committee of the Wednesday Wrinklies was held at 10.00 hours on Saturday 18th March, 2000, in Cell 108 of Blackheath Medical Barracks. Prisoner 3094343, who had escaped two days previously, bravely re-entered the Barracks to assist in the break-out of Prisoner 3094351. This had been planned with the connivance of the Chaplain to the Barracks who was waiting in her fast, Japanese-designed, motor-car. The guards blithely accepted that the Chaplain was taking Prisoner 3094351 on a 3-day Retreat and just as readily believed that Prisoner 3094343 was a bona-fide Blood Donor.

If we tell you, gentle reader, that Prisoner 3094343 was later to be found in the vicinity of the former residence of the Minister of Swanley Scottish Kirk and that Prisoner 3094351 was later observed watching Rugby in a former Bank premises in a village at the foot of the North Downs, you may be a little nearer to realising that, just before Tom S. entered hospital on Sunday 13/3/2000 for a scheduled lung operation, Laurie L. had been admitted to the same hospital on the Saturday evening with a Thrombosis (clot of blood in leg).

Jenny had noticed, en passant, the resemblance to Laurie of the patient in Room 110 but Tom, not knowing this, was later very puzzled by a message from the nurse saying that an un-named friend in Room 110 would welcome a visit. All was soon revealed and the Escape Committee was duly formed. We even managed to co-opt some of the medical guards but we never did find the prisoner with the "Terry Thomas"-style moustache who would, surely, have been our Chairman. It was only when finding our way to the friendly, neighbouring Kingdom of Kent that our map-reading and orienteering skills came into their own - Laurie had made a compass with TV parts.

P.S. Escaped 10.50 hrs. 18.3.2000. Operation "Pulmonaria" highly successful.

MILLENNIUM HUNDRED

Members of the Millennium Hundred Committee have been busy checking the route description, for accuracy and from the safety angle, preparing menus, inspecting checkpoint venues, making equipment lists, contacting LDWA groups who are running checkpoints for us, getting certificates, route descriptions (draft), sweatshirts etc. printed, sending out entry forms and acknowledgements, responding to written and 'phone enquiries, arranging transport, allocating people to jobs, banking cheques and much, much more. Indeed Paul, as Event Co-ordinator, has had so many "balls in the air" that he probably feels as if he has been doing a fair imitation of a juggler in recent months. According to an informant in Durham it will get worse!

In case you have **still** not made a note the dates are:-

Marshals' Walk: Saturday 29th, Sunday 30th April and Monday 1st May 2000

Main Event: Saturday 27th, Sunday 28th and Monday 29th May, 2000.

Kent Group members should be prepared to help at any time and place over the weekend of the main event, i.e. from 6.00 a.m. on Saturday 27th to 12 noon on Monday 29th May - for those who have done the Marshals' Walk replace "should" with "must".

If you have not already offered help Kevin Puttock () is waiting for your call. If you can help on the Marshals' Walk please contact Neal O'Rourke ()

At the time of writing (20/3/2000) the event is, rather surprisingly, undersubscribed so if you meet anyone from another group who shows an interest do tell them to send an S.A.E. to:- Pam Prince, ()

I am pleased to report that the LDWA President, Sir John Johnson, has agreed to be the official starter for the Millennium Hundred and we look forward to welcoming him in Canterbury on Saturday 27th May 2000. I understand that, when his official duties are over, Sir John is planning to walk a section of the North Downs Way going west from Wye.

KENT GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 30 JANUARY 2000

The Minutes, as approved by the Committee in the usual way, are enclosed.

SEVENOAKS CIRCULAR 5 AND 19 MARCH 2000

The Report and Results of the Marshals' Walk and the Main Event are enclosed.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MON SEP 4

ROSE & CROWN, WROTHAM, GR612592, 8 P.M.

SAT/SUN 14/15 OCT

WEALDEN WATERS WALK

Offers of help to Hilary Thornburgh ()

All contributions for the August issue to the Editor by **MONDAY 3 JULY 2000.**