



LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

Kent Group

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

NEWSLETTER



"THE HORTON HOBBLERS"

OVERLOOKING THE DARENT VALLEY

Kent Group Social Walk, Sunday 12th November 2000

Number 54

April 2001

KENT GROUP PROGRAMME, April to October 2001

Group gatherings are held on the first Monday of each month (except if that coincides with a Bank Holiday when they are postponed to the second Monday) at The Rose & Crown, Wrotham, GR 612 592. Meetings commence at 8 p.m.

- SUN APR 8 **WEDNESDAY WRINKLIES' WEST KENT KANTER REVISITED**
c.20ml. Meet 8.00a.m. Ide Hill c.p. GR488 518, Explorer 147. Prompt start at 8.15. Pub stop at 12 miles, food available. Same area as previous kanter BUT this will be a group social walk - no kantering! Leader - Laurie Lowe [REDACTED].
- SUN APR 22 **EVERYWHERE BUT ELHAM 2**
c.21ml. Meet Elham Church Square, GR177 438, (Landranger 179, Explorer 138) for 8.30a.m. start. Pub stop, food available. Leaders - Jan & Neal O'Rourke, [REDACTED].
- MON MAY 14 **PENSIONERS' PLOD**
c.5ml. Meet Rose & Crown, Wrotham, GR612 592, 7p.m. for a short stroll before joining the usual monthly gathering. Leader - Tom Sinclair, [REDACTED].
- SAT-MON MAY 26-28 **LAKELAND HUNDRED**
Kent Group checkpoint at Threlkeld, at 44.3 miles. Details from Tom S. [REDACTED].
- MON JUN 4 **POST-HUNDRED POTTER**
c.6ml. Meet Rose & Crown, Wrotham, GR612 592, 7p.m. for a stroll before joining the monthly meeting. Leader - Keith Warman, [REDACTED].
- SUN JUN17 **HIGH WEALD MARSHALS' WALK**
For those helping on the main event. Meet at Pembury c.p. GR625 407, Explorer 136, for 8.30a.m. start. There will be some support, but carry your own mug. Contact Ernie Bishop [REDACTED].
- SUN JUN 24 **HIGH WEALD WALK - MAIN EVENT.**
See STRIDER, Future Events for details.
- MON JUL 2 **PUB MEETING - ROSE & CROWN, WROTHAM, 8 p.m.**
- SAT JUL 7 **BOULOGNE TO CALAIS**
c.31ml. Meet at Dover Eastern Docks for 7.00a.m. to catch ferry to Calais and then train to Boulogne. Walk back to catch approx 11.00p.m. ferry back to Dover. Arrange your own ticket. Approx cost £5 for ferry, £5 for train. For further details contact Graham Smith on [REDACTED].
- SUN JUL 22 **A MINNIS MEANDER**
c.20ml. Meet at Ivy House, Stelling Minnis, GR147 483, Landranger 179 or Explorer 138, for a 9a.m. start. Pub stop, food available. Leader-Liz Keeler [REDACTED].
- WED JUL 25 **IVAN'S EVENING ITINERARY**
c.6/7ml. Meet 7.00 p.m. at The George c.p., Trottiscliffe. Landranger 188, GR641 599. Leader - Ivan Waghorn, [REDACTED].

Foot & Mouth Crisis

Please check with Walk Leader before each walk

SUN JUL 29 PAUL'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS WALK EVENTS

Approx 12 circular walks with route description from 3.5 to 20 miles. From 8.30a.m. Pluckley Village Square GR926 454. Refreshments from 1 Yew Tree Cottage. Longer walks bring own lunch. Cream teas available from 3.30p.m. All routes covered by Landranger 189, Explorer 137 or Pathfinder 1230. Donations to cover costs, surplus to Macmillan Cancer Relief. For further details contact Paul Hatcher on [REDACTED]

MON AUG 6 PUB MEETING at THE ROSE & CROWN, WROTHAM, 8p.m.

SUN AUG 12 WATERINGBURY WALKABOUT

c.20ml. Meet Wateringbury Station c.p. GR692 528, Landranger 188, Explorer 148, for 8.30a.m. start. Pub stop, food available. Leader - Shirley Higgins [REDACTED]

SAT-SUN SEP 1-2 WEALDEN WATERS MARSHALS' WALK

For those helping on the main event only. Return entry forms to Neal O'Rourke, [REDACTED] See August newsletter for more details.

SUN SEP 9 NEAL'S 2 PUBS BASH

c.22.5ml. Meet Rye Market c.p. GR919 206 (off Rope Walk) for 8.30a.m. start. £1 parking fee on entry. Lunch stop Hastings - pub food available. With an additional pub stop on the return journey. Leaders - Jan & Neal O'Rourke Tel: [REDACTED]

SUN SEP 23 LES TROIS CHEMINEES

c.20ml. Start 8.30a.m. prompt from c.p. next to Hawkhurst Church, GR762 305, Landranger 188 or Explorer 136. Pub stop, food available. Leader Maurice Faircloth, [REDACTED]

MON OCT 1 PUB MEETING at THE ROSE & CROWN, WROTHAM, 8p.m.

SAT-SUN 13-14 OCT WEALDEN WATERS WALK

See Future Events in STRIDER. Entry fee held at £10, so simple provisions (by Kent Group standards!!) Bring your own emergency rations. COULD BE THE LAST RUNNING OF THIS EVENT. WE NEED YOU!!

Programme details provided by Neal O'Rourke. Please send offers to lead future walks to:- Neal O'Rourke, [REDACTED]

COMMITTEE

Chairman.....Paul Hatcher [REDACTED]
Secretary.....Tom Sinclair [REDACTED]
Treasurer.....Neil Higham [REDACTED]

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Trevor Blake [REDACTED]
Duncan Brice [REDACTED]
Neal O'Rourke [REDACTED]

Andrew Boulden [REDACTED]
Brian Buttifant [REDACTED]
Keith Warman [REDACTED]

All contributions for the August 2001 issue of this newsletter to be sent to Laurie Lowe, [REDACTED] by June 30th please. Tel. [REDACTED]

PETER RICKARDS - AN APPRECIATION

Those who attended the AGM will have heard the sad news of Peter's death on the previous day. It is possible that some Kent group members may not be able to recall who Peter was as he had been unable to take part in walking activities for several years due to knee problems.

Peter was a founder member of the Kent group and also helped to set up the Sussex and the Essex & Herts groups. It is now 27 years since he inaugurated the Sevenoaks Circular event and for a number of years he ran it from the tiny scouts' hut at Otford. Those were the days of much simpler organisation of events - in 1982 his route description required only 1½ pages of A4 for 30 miles! The first sentence read "From Scout Hut follow North Downs Way east for 6 miles to Wrotham and checkpoint no. 1." It was on this occasion that he had the idea of waymarking the route with small circular white discs which he stapled to posts, gates, stiles, etc. They were supposed to be biodegradable - but I could show you some which still exist in the West Kingsdown area!



In more recent years, when he could no longer cope with long distances, he became known as an enthusiastic checkpoint organiser. His cooked breakfasts, produced in the covered car park at Tonbridge, were always a popular feature of the Wealden Waters Marshals' walks.

Peter was always full of kindness and good humour and I have many personal memories of times that we have spent walking together. We backpacked The Two Moors Way in the company of Keith Porter and Paul Bourne and also a rather moist Red Kite Trail with John Probert. Peter and I had one problem in common, we both suffered badly from the overnight sickness that afflicts many walkers on long

events. One year, on the High Peak Marathon, he was keen to try out his latest 'cure' for this problem. He was sure that a mixture of brandy and ginger wine would settle our stressed digestive systems. We tested the theory copiously while crossing Bleaklow Moor in the dark, only to discover that we had become so relaxed that we completely missed a checkpoint in the dark and had to backtrack to find the small tent which sheltered the checkpointers from the January night.

Members of the LDWA were well represented among the large group of mourners which assembled at Peter's funeral service at Kemsing church. The size of the assembly reflected the many and varied interests which Peter had and also the affection felt for him by those who had come to know this kind and generous man.

Laurie Lowe.

The following reminiscence of Peter was submitted by Keith Warman:-

In the run-up to the 1984 Dartmoor Hundred, several group members travelled to Devon during the week prior to the event to carry out reconnoitring exercises, particularly of the night sections. Whilst I was safely ensconced in a B&B near Yelverton, others (including

Peter) were in a cabin on a campsite near Mary Tavy.

On one of these days, several group members, plus John Tomsen (Wessex) and Chris Coates (Sussex) met on the moors for a 20 mile walk of part of the route. As I recall, we had arranged to meet Eileen Lowe and Susan Verrell (who carried refreshments) at a pre-arranged time at the halfway point - the village of Liverton.

We had trouble route finding during the morning and consequently were late for our rendezvous. Instead of Eileen and Susan we found a note; we had missed them. The day was warm and there did not appear to be a pub or shop in the village. With a slight air of concern in the party, Peter decided swift action was required. While the rest of us cowered out of sight, he knocked on a front door and explained the situation to a lady, asking if he could possibly have a cup of tea. She said yes and then Peter just happened to mention that he had a few friends around the corner - could they possibly have tea too please?

Within seconds the whole party marched up the garden path and was propped up against the gable end of the house, resting in the warm sunshine, while this kind lady and her husband brought us pot after pot of tea. The whole episode seemed no trouble at all to them and I think they even brought out a plate of cakes.

Whilst realising how lucky we had been in finding refreshment, we couldn't help but roar with laughter knowing that Peter's cheek had dug us out of a potentially difficult hole. I still recall this incident today in fond appreciation of someone who was always willing to help others out if he possibly could.

In my early LDWA days, I always thought that Peter was an inspirational person and he was very helpful to me in offering all sorts of advice and gentle encouragement. I was very saddened to hear of his passing.

Keith Warman.

The HOSPICE in the WEALD - At a recent committee meeting it was confirmed that a donation* of £200 from the proceeds of this year's Sevenoaks Circular would be made to the Hospice in the Weald in appreciation of the care which Peter received there during the final stages of his illness.

* In spite of the enforced cancellation of the event this pledge will be honoured.

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The following report by LES MAPLE was received just too late for the December issue.

ANNUAL LUNCH AND WALK

The Kent Group Annual Lunch was held at The Shant Hotel, East Sutton on Sunday 19th November. I had not been down to visit my Kent colleagues since helping out at the Millennium Hundred back in May. A return visit was long overdue, thus it was that I made the decision to attend the Lunch. As I did not want to make too early a start I opted not to do the walk.

I am informed that my map reading and navigation, on walks, is quite good. Put me behind the wheel of a car and send me into the lanes and back roads of Kent and those skills go completely to pot. Thus it was that having left the M20 I found myself driving to - I know not where. Having got myself totally disoriented I drove down a hill and came to a junction which I vaguely recognised. On turning right I then found myself outside The Provender in Ulcombe. On a previous occasion when coming down to a monthly meeting I had had a great deal of trouble finding The Provender. Today I found it without even trying! At least I was able to pinpoint my position. I still had to stop and ask directions before I managed to find The Shant, arriving just before 12.30, still well in time for lunch, which was scheduled for 13.00 hrs. Over the next half hour members and guests began to arrive.

Some had been out on a 5 mile hike, in order to build up an appetite no doubt. Rumour had it that the group had split into two, as a small splinter group had formed. Now I know why so many sat down before lunch using needles and pins to remove small slivers of wood from their hands before tackling the meal (only kidding folks) Although there had been some drizzle at the start of the walk, the morning turned out to be fine and sunny, and the route was not as muddy as expected.

Pre-luncheon drinks were enjoyed before moving into the dining room, here 46 members and guests sat down to an enjoyable meal - with plenty of choice and with a good serving of food especially on the main course. I will not bore you with the choices as these were adequately covered in the August newsletter. I had the pleasure of sitting next to Hilary Thornburgh who, as it turned out, knew the postmaster and postmistress in the village where I came from in Wales. A small place called Burry Port made famous by Amelia Earhart (first woman to fly across the Atlantic) as it was in that bay that she landed. To my right was a young lady (apologies, but I can't remember her name) who came to Kent some 30 years ago after having lived in South Africa. This was yet another coincidence because my wife was born in South Africa.

In his after-dinner speech the chairman thanked Hilary for making all the arrangements for the Lunch. Hilary indicated that she was prepared to continue in this role and would make the necessary arrangements for the Annual Lunch in 2001. Paul also thanked everyone for the support they gave towards making the Millennium Hundred the success it was, despite the weather. He gave special thanks to the support given by those (spouses and partners) who, although very much in the background, do what they can to help the organisers and others involved in many ways. Many letters of thanks had been received and these have been included in two files which have been assembled containing all documents relating to the Hundred. Paul said that he would endeavour to get the files round to as many members as possible. If you have any anecdotes or paperwork relating to the event which you think should be filed, please forward them to Laurie Lowe.

Paul made an impassioned plea to those present. This was for new people to come forward to take over the running of the Wealden Waters event. Unless new blood could be found then next year's event (now this year's - Ed) could be the last. It would be sad to see it disappear especially as we already have the Surrey Summits under threat - 2001 could also see the last of that event.

A raffle was also held - prizes having been donated by Kent Group members. Andrew and his family did quite well having successfully had their tickets come out of the 'hat' on two or three occasions. In fairness Andrew did admit that he/they had bought quite a few tickets.

It only remains for me to thank Hilary for having arranged a splendid Annual Luncheon, it was well worth making the 150 mile round trip to be present. My thanks also to Jennie and Tom for guiding me back to the M20 - it was a great help. It may well be 2001 before I venture back to the Kent area so I will take this opportunity of wishing you all an enjoyable and healthy year 2001.

Les Maple.

.....
TOM'S MANGLED MUNROS UNMANGLED - see December Newsletter.

By unscrambling the anagrams you should have located (but not necessarily climbed) the following names (If you find any errors - typing or otherwise) blame the Hon. Sec!

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Brae Riach | 2. Cairn Toul | 3. Ben Macdhuì |
| 4. Suilven | 5. Ben Nevis | 6. Ben Allighinn |
| 7. Lochnagar | 8. Beinn Bhrotan | 9. Snowdon |
| 10. Helvellyn | 11. Lugnaquilla | 12. Helvellyn |
| 13. The Inaccessible Pinnacle | 14. Glyder Fach | 15. Glyder Fawr |
| 16. Crib Goch | 17. Scafell Pike | |

A WINTER WALK

Bill Gillibrand.

Some time before Christmas Neal O'Rourke rang to let me know of a 20 mile walk to be led by Ernie Bishop on Saturday, 30th December starting from Ide Hill. He did not give a grid reference but said to meet at the car park next to the toilets, which I assumed to be the principle feature of that area.

Of course it snowed on the previous Wednesday and the weather turned cold. The awaited call telling of the cancellation did not arrive so I rang the Bishop residence on the Friday to resolve any uncertainty. Celia told me that Ernie was preparing his kit so it was presumably still on. I decided that if there was any more snow that night it would be sufficient excuse to give it a miss.

At 6.00a.m. on the Saturday I looked out of the bedroom window and realised that my last alibi for returning to bed had not materialised. At 8.00a.m. there had assembled (next to the toilets) only Neal and Jan, Ernie and myself. Some others had said they were coming so we waited nearly a quarter of an hour before the four of us set off, for nobody else had shown.

The route proved to be last year's (and this year's?) 20 mile Sevenoaks Circular. The temperature was sub-zero and so it remained all day. This encouraged us to keep up a steady pace and not to hang around too much. The freezing temperature was a blessing in giving a hard crust over the all too prevalent mud of recent months. On the down side it also meant that ploughed fields and bridle paths presented a very irregular and unyielding surface. We also found ourselves slipping on the icy patches. These were minor quibbles for mainly the walking was good and the weather excellent as there was bright sun and blue skies all day long.

Before mid-day we had completed over 11 miles and arrived at Sevenoaks. Fortunately the Chequers pub in the High Street was already open and serving food. Being almost the first there we were served quickly and our stay was a modest 45 minutes. The afternoon continued as for the morning although as is usual the stiles seemed higher and the hills longer and steeper, also the low sun was directly in our eyes for much of the time. We arrived back at the start venue at the early hour of 3.15p.m. feeling pleased to have had a bracing day's walk after the over-indulgences of Christmas. It was a shame that the weather and state of the roads discouraged others from joining in as it was a good day all round and our thanks to Ernie for leading it.

Bill Gillibrand.

..... **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 28th January 2001.**

The meeting was preceded by a walk led by Maurice Faircloth and Eve Reynolds. We were fortunate in being blessed with fine weather and our leaders had managed to find an attractive route in the Hawkhurst area which proved to be relatively free of the mud to which we have all become accustomed to this winter.

While the walkers had been enjoying the sunshine, Pauline Barnett, Mary Hatcher and Celia Bishop had prepared a meal of hot soup followed by a cold buffet which was much appreciated by all concerned. After the meal, tables were cleared and the meeting proceeded in the usual format. Minutes of the AGM were approved at the first meeting of the new committee held on 14th February and are included with this newsletter.
Editor.

QUESTIONNAIRE - You should find included with this newsletter a Questionnaire which encourages you to offer your help for our two challenge walks to be run later this year. Those who attended the AGM will have already had the opportunity to fill in one of these forms. Please don't bin it - fill in the appropriate boxes and then send the relevant bit to either Ernie or Neil at the addresses shown on the slips.

SNIPPETS from the MINUTES - The following items have been gleaned from the minutes of recent committee meetings.

"WHERE THE MONEY GOES" (meeting of 28th November, 2000) - Neil reported that the current account balance as at 28/11/2000 was £1,977.66 and the deposit account balance £2,054.79. Expenditure of about £800 during November had included the purchase of non-perishable food from the Millennium Hundred Committee (£400), printing of Wealden Waters route descriptions, printing of Sevenoaks Circular entry forms and some partial (£7.50) refunds of Wealden Waters entry fees - more were still to be paid into the recipients' accounts.

Tax of £5.67 on deposit account interest had been paid. The raffle at the Annual Lunch had made £46 after gratuities to hotel staff - as previously agreed this sum would go towards the cost of the buffet lunch before the AGM. The final accounts for the Sevenoaks Circular (March, 2000) were not yet available. After discussion expenditure of up to £50 on buffet-style food at the monthly gathering on Monday 4th December 2000 was approved on the basis that this would be the last gathering at "The Provender" which was closing early in the New Year.

HIGH WEALD WALK - (meeting of 3rd January) - It was noted that the date of the High Weald Walk had been brought forward to June in order to avoid clashes with other events.

WHITE ROSE HUNDRED - (meeting of 3rd January) - It was reported that, due to the route crossing at least one grouse moor, the Marshals' walk for the White Rose Hundred in 2002, would be held over the weekend of 25/26/27 August 2001. The May Day Bank Holiday in 2002 would occur at a very sensitive stage in the grouse-breeding season. It was further reported that, due to the Queen's Golden Jubilee falling on 2nd June, the Government had declared Monday 3rd June an extra Bank Holiday and had decided that the Spring Bank Holiday, which normally fell on the last Monday in May, should be moved to Tuesday 4th June 2002. As a result the White Rose Hundred, based in Ripon, Yorkshire, would now be held on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd June 2002. The change of date had been notified too late for inclusion in the December Newsletter.

ALLOCATION of DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES - Social Walks Organiser: Neal O'Rourke. Provisions: Paul Hatcher. Equipment: Trevor Blake. Membership: Tom Sinclair. Printing: Bryan Clarke. Badges & Certificates: Keith Warman. Social Events: Trevor Blake. Mugs: Bryan Clarke. Footpaths: Tom Bowman. Publicity: Tom Sinclair. Minutes: Duncan Brice, Neil Higham (in rotation) and Tom Sinclair (AGM) Editor: Laurie Lowe.

EVENT SUB-COMMITTEES - Sevenoaks Circular: Trevor Blake, Andrew Boulden, Duncan Brice, Brian Buttifant.

- High Weald Walk: Ernie Bishop, Hilary Thornburgh, (Jean Dunton, Shirley Higgins and Laurie Lowe on route checking)

- Wealden Waters: Duncan Brice (entries secretary), Neil Higham (checkpoint staffing), Keith Warman (route checking and courtesy notes overseer), Paul Hatcher (provisions), Trevor Blake (equipment), Brian Buttifant (HQ and checkpoint bookings), Neal O'Rourke (marshals' walk organiser, including food, staff, checkpoint locations, etc.)

From the Minutes of the AGM:-

"10.7 Behind The Chair - Before the meeting closed Paul thanked his wife Mary, for her unfailing and unstinting support during a busy and difficult year. The vote of thanks was greeted with **thunderous applause**".

BILL'S BIGGIN HILL BASH - 18th February.

Ten members gathered at the Leaves Green car park for a prompt start at 8.30a.m. The weather was dry and, just as important, the previous few days of sunshine and drying breezes had made a big improvement to the conditions underfoot. Muddy conditions seemed to be limited to a few bridleways through woods where sunshine and wind had not been able to reach.

After passing on the northern side of the length of the airfield runway, we followed the paths of a series of circular walks which have been established in this area - the Cudham, Leaves Green and Berrys Green circulars. Progress was good and we arrived at the pub at Cudham just after opening time. The service was quick and it did not seem long before we were on our way again.

It was a commonly held view that most (if not all!) of Bill's route was of the uphill variety. I attempted to construct a Limerick to record this phenomenon, but only got as far as:-

There was a young man called Bill
Whose walk went mainly uphill.....

but that is as far as I got since I had difficulty in walking (uphill), breathing heavily and thinking, all at the same time!

The route chosen by Bill was attractive especially when you consider that all but a very short distance was in fact within the Greater London boundary. We arrived back at Leaves Green soon after 4p.m. having covered about 16 miles.

It was a very smoothly run walk and I was surprised to learn at a later date that it was Bill's first go at leading a walk. Well done!

Laurie Lowe.

.....
Above all do not lose your desire to walk: every day I walk myself into a state of well being and walk myself away from every illness: I have walked myself into my best thoughts, and I know of no thought so burdensome that one cannot walk away from it....but by sitting still, and the more one sits still, the closer one comes to feeling ill...Thus, if one just keeps on walking everything will be alright.

Soren Kierkegaard.

And on a slightly lighter note:-

*There was a Young Girl of Majorca, Whose Aunt was a very fast walker
She walked seventy miles, and leaped fifteen stiles
Which astonished that girl of Majorca.*

Edward Lear (1812-88)

SOUTHERN TRIPLE CHALLENGE - Due to the cancellation of the Wealden Waters and also the Three Forests last year because of the bad weather conditions, there have been hardly any claims for this award which is available to anyone who completes all three events in an unbroken sequence (the third event being the Surrey Summits)

Having completed the Summits earlier in the year, Chris Chorley, Bobbie Sauerzapf and Parsley the dog made the wise decision to do the marshals' walks for the two events which were subsequently cancelled, and thus they may be the only ones to have successfully completed all three events in the year 2000.

Parsley, who apparently always finishes 1 minute ahead of Chris and Bobbie and in better condition, is the only dog to have claimed this award (twice in fact!)

The following item is taken from "The Rambler" and refers to one of our overseas members :-

WONDER WOMAN - Jill Green, Isle of Wight Countryside Secretary, walked her way into the record books by becoming Ladies Champion in the Grand Union Canal Race. Jill completed the 145-mile route from Birmingham to London in a new record time of 39 hours and 38 minutes by walking at a very brisk pace - beating other competitors who chose to run the course with rest breaks along the way. Placed sixth overall 58-year-old Jill said: "I was amazed and delighted to set a new record - we oldies have more stamina."

MORE POST-MILLENNIUM HUNDRED NEWS:- Because Kent Group bought in £400 worth of non-perishable food and because the National committee subsidised postage by £100, we had a surplus of £810.97 in the Millennium account. The odd 97p has been transferred to Kent Group accounts and cheques ranging from £20 to £65 sent to the LDWA and other groups who staffed checkpoints.

Tom Sinclair.

With reference to the above, Tom received the following message:-

Tom, I received your cheque this morning and on behalf of The Thames Valley Group of the LDWA I am writing to thank you for your generosity and honesty!

Congratulations to your committee, who through good planning and financial control ended up with a surplus and I understand a very good event. Thank you.

Joan Feather.

KENT AIR AMBULANCE - A sum of £200 from the proceeds of last year's Sevenoaks Circular was presented to the Kent Air Ambulance at the Rose & Crown, Wrotham on Thursday 22nd February. A number of organisations were making donations at this special ceremony and Tom was able to publicise the activities of the Kent LDWA. The following extract is from a press release for the local papers:-

"Alan Bradshaw, Landlord of the Rose & Crown, presented a cheque for £2,500 to representatives of the Kent Air Ambulance at a ceremony in his pub.... The walking fraternity was represented by members of the Long Distance Walkers Association who presented a cheque for £200 from the proceeds of their annual event the Sevenoaks Circular. Anyone interested in walking the event (20 or 30 miles) on Sunday 18th March 2001 can obtain an entry form by sending an S.A.E. to Brian Buttifant, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The LDWA Kent Group meets in the Rose & Crown on the first Monday (8p.m.) of each month."

ST DAVID'S WALK - May I draw your attention to the St David's Walk website www.stdavidswalk.co.uk, a route of about 400km from St David's to Bangor, mostly following the highest ground.

Two slightly unusual things about it: firstly, the complete route is described in some detail on the website (no other guidebook is needed); secondly, it is not a challenge walk and is actually quite easy even though it includes a large part of the Cambrian Way. It could be ideal for older members looking for something new.

It uniquely links the two oldest Welsh National Parks. There is some fairly adventurous walking (particularly, perhaps, some of the apparently easy days in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire where both route finding and partially blocked rights of way lengthen the time needed) and easy options are provided for rabbits when cloud cover is low.

Michael Slaney.

"TREAD LIGHTLY" - Avril has sent me a copy of this booklet, published by the British Mountaineering Council and sub-titled "A best practice guide for walkers and climbers in the uplands". It is designed to encourage a responsible attitude to the environment in

which we walk and contains many useful and interesting tips. My copy will be available at pub meets. Copies at £2.50 can be ordered from: Information Service, British Mountaineering Council, [REDACTED]
It is probably worth 'phoning first to check whether there is a charge for postage & packing.
Tom S.

HUNDRED BADGES - During the 3 years of his service as National Publicity Officer, Ted Marsh of Yorkshire Coast Group has made a collection of Hundreds Badges which are now displayed on a board. Some of you will have seen it at a National AGM. Unfortunately he is still missing some badges and would appreciate any help in obtaining them to complete the set. He is looking for: 1972 Downsman, 1974 Downsman, 1987 Snowdonia, 1990 Chilterns, 1990 Marches (extra)
Tom S.

EURO RAMBLERS' RALLY, Strasbourg, September 2001. - I have loads of copies of the Strasbourg leaflet and will bring some to pub meets, Sevenoaks Circular, AGM, etc. It also mentions walking festivals on 16/17 June but I have not been able to discover details of anything happening in Kent. The RA organiser for something in the Dover area is: Brian Godden, [REDACTED]
Tom S.

BLOOMERS! - We have all at sometime found part of a route description to be ambiguous or perhaps misleading unless read very carefully. This is a common problem for someone writing a route description and it is always advisable to get a person who is totally unfamiliar with the route to do a check of the description before it is let loose on the unsuspecting entrants of an event.

Over the years I have found several common errors in spelling. Perhaps the most common is the use of the word "style" in place of "stile". The easiest way to avoid this mistake is to abbreviate it to "st" ! Another error which I have come across on several occasions is the use of "passed" in place of "past" - as in "continue ahead passed barn." The most recent mistake (and the one which prompted this little space filler) was "follow bridal way" - waymarked no doubt with confetti!

If you have found any similar bloomers or amusing expressions while struggling with the complexities of route-finding, please send them to me for future use as fillers.

Laurie Lowe.

FROM THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER FOR 1.2.01 White Cliffs of Dover go crashing into the Channel

A section of Dover's white cliffs collapsed yesterday, sending a 100,000 ton chunk of chalk crashing to the beaches. Witnesses reported a mass "the size of a football pitch" falling 300ft at a point between Dover and St. Margaret's Bay...

Steve Judd, a park ranger for the National Trust, which part-owns the cliffs, said: "Where the cliffs have come away, what is left is very bright white, contrasting with the dirty white cliffs either side of it..."

"The collapse was caused by rain being absorbed into the cliff face and then freezing and expanding during the recent cold snap, weakening the rock", said a spokesman for the Dover Coastguard. "The ice thaws eventually, leaving large gaps up to 20cm wide..." Signs were being posted warning walkers to stay well away from the cliff edge.

Bryan Clarke.

.....but see next page.....

.....and assuming that there will be some cliffs remaining.....

Not our White cliffs Walk but one promoted by the National Trust.

"The third White Cliffs Challenge Walk will take place on September 15th, 2001. There's a choice of three walks to suit all levels and abilities. The shortest, a 10-mile walk is particularly suitable for families and those seeking a moderate challenge but are not long distance walkers. For serious, hardy walkers there's the 21-mile walk and new for 2001, we've included an awesome 26-mile marathon, which will require some serious training."

The extract above was taken from the National Trust Kent & East Sussex News. Entry costs £10 for adults and £5 for children, for which you will receive a comprehensive guide to the route and preparation notes. Walkers are encouraged to seek sponsorship but this is not essential - all profits will go to support the N.T's conservation work on the White Cliffs.

For full details, call the White Cliffs Challenge Walk Hotline on [REDACTED]

ST MARY'S NORTH DOWNS CHALLENGE - Saturday May 12th

This event, organised by Mike Cursons, is in support of St Mary's Church, Kemsing. Choice of 20, 15, 11, and 6 mile routes to suit everyone. Send S.A.E. to Mike Cursons, [REDACTED]



And Finally:- This may be of interest to those Kent Group members who compete in marathons or even those who take an interest in their times in LDWA events.

Prior to the London Marathon of 2000, a small paragraph in a national paper gave the result of a survey taken after the 1999 Marathon of those competitors who completed the course.* This survey showed that 30% of these competitors had sex the night before the Marathon and their time to complete the run was increased by an average of 14 minutes.

Bryan Clarke.

*What would be more interesting would be to know the percentage of competitors who did not complete the course but who had had sex the night before! If a similar survey were to be carried out after an LDWA EVENT and taking into account the increasing average age of members, then the results would be highly unreliable as most would not be able to remember whether the answer was Yes or No!!

Editor.