



LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

Kent Group

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

NEWSLETTER

KENT AIR AMBULANCE TRUST

Registered Charity No. 1021367



OUR GRATEFUL THANKS

**Long Distance Walkers
Association Ltd**

FOR YOUR DONATION

£200

February 2001

27 February, 2001

Number 55

August 2001

LDWA KENT GROUP PROGRAMME, AUGUST 2001 - APRIL 2002

SUN AUG 12 - WATERINGBURY WALKABOUT

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

MON SEP 3 - Pub meeting at The Rose & Crown, Wrotham, GR612 592. 8 p.m.

SUN SEP 9 - NEAL'S TWO PUB BASH

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

SUN SEP 23 - LES TROIS CHEMINÉES

c. 20 ml. Start 8.30 a.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, GR612 592. 8 p.m.

SUN OCT 7 - BILL'S MOTTINGHAM MARCH

c. 18 ml. Start 8.30 a.m. Meet Mottingham B.R. Station c.p. off A20. Explorer 162, GR426 732 (southside) Pub stop. This walk should not be affected by Foot & Mouth restrictions as it will use some of the Green Chain route. Leader Bill Gillibrand, [REDACTED].

MON NOV 5 - Pub meeting at The Rose & Crown, Wrotham, GR612 592. 8 p.m.

SUN NOV 11 - JIM'S JOLLY JAUNT 3.

c. 18 ml. Meet at Longfield B.R. Station c.p. for 8.30 a.m. start. Landranger 177, GR601 689. Picnic lunch. Leader: Jim Oddy, [REDACTED].

MON DEC 3 - Pub meeting at The Rose & Crown, Wrotham.

SUN DEC 9 - CHRISTMAS LUNCH & FAMILY WALK.

This year at "The Chequers" at Crouch near Borough Green. See back page of this newsletter for full details and booking form.

FRI JAN 4 - WINTER NIGHT WALK

c. 20 ml. Meet 9.30 p.m. for 10.30 p.m. start. The George, Trottisccliffe. GR641 599. Out on Weald Way and return on North Downs Way. Leader Ivan Waghorn [REDACTED].

SUN FEB 10 - TREVOR'S TRUDGE 2.

c. 18 ml. 9 a.m. start. Meet Longfield Station c.p. Landranger 177, GR601 689. Pub stop, food available. Leader Trevor Blake, [REDACTED].

SUN FEB 24 - A MINNIS MEANDER.

c. 20 ml. Meet Ivy House, Stelling Minnis, GR147 483, Landranger 179 or Explorer 138, for a 9 a.m. start. Pub stop - food available. Leader: Liz Keeler, [REDACTED].

SUN APR 7 - WEDNESDAY WRINKLIES' WEST KENT KANTER REVISITED.

c. 20 ml. Meet 8.00 a.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 28 EVERYWHERE BUT ELHAM 2

c. 21 ml. Meet Elham Church Square, GR177 438, Landranger 179,
Explorer 138, for 8.30 a.m. start. Pub stop, food available. Leaders: Jan &
Neal O'Rourke, [REDACTED]

COMMITTEE

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Trevor Blake	[REDACTED]	Andrew Boulden	[REDACTED]
Duncan Brice	[REDACTED]	Brian Buttifant	[REDACTED]
Neal O'Rourke	[REDACTED]	Keith Warman	[REDACTED]

EDITORIAL

This is going to be an unusual newsletter to produce. Much of the copy accumulated since the previous issue and which related to the constantly-changing situation in the Foot & Mouth crisis is now redundant. At the time of starting the task of editing material for the this issue (early July) it seems that the footpath situation will improve rapidly. According to an official notice (see below) the KCC expects to announce on 9th July that all paths in the county are open, with the exception of those in areas where outbreaks were confirmed and where MAFF restrictions still apply. East and West Sussex, and Surrey have already re-opened all paths, so by the time that you receive this newsletter, things should be back to near normal.

So what can we expect? Overgrown paths certainly. From my observations recently while trying to walk some paths, it seems possible that some landowners/farmers will be reluctant to open up paths and I suspect that some of the prohibitive notices will be left in place for some time. Will we have the legal right to ignore them? My normal cynicism leads me to suspect that the alacrity with which farmers put up these signs at the start of the outbreak will not be matched when it comes to removing them. I have been told that we should contact the local Highways Maintenance Unit with full details if we encounter any problems. The walking organisations (R.A. and L.D.W.A.) have acted very responsibly during the crisis - it is to be hoped that others will do likewise now that the crisis in the South East seems to be coming to an end. These are personal views and do not necessarily reflect the views of the committee.

Laurie Lowe, Editor.

Kent County Council
Foot and Mouth Disease
Latest News

27 June 2001, 08.45 AM.

Footpaths in Kent will open on Monday 9 July providing there is no downturn in the national position. An exception will be those footpaths which run through the 15 farms in the KCC area which are still subject to Foot And Mouth restrictions (Form A notices)

Livestock farmers will be able to apply (by Wednesday 4 July) for a special exemption where there are exceptional circumstances, such as irreplaceable animals, ancient bloodlines etc. Each case will be considered on an individual basis.

A new notice indicating that a public Right of Way is open, but urging users to follow good countryside practice, is being made available to farmers and others to display instead of the current closed notices.

COVER DESIGN - This is a reduced version of the A4-size certificate awarded to the Group by the Kent Air Ambulance for the donation of £200 earlier this year. The original certificate will be placed in the current Group photo album.

CHRIS DAWES AND THE PACIFIC CREST TRAIL

Although Chris isn't a Kent member I'm sure all those who do Challenge Walks or who help at Kent events will know him. Some of you, like us, will have sponsored him for this walk covering 1600 miles, which he did last year. All Sponsorship money went to Harvest Help, a charity which, among other things, helps impoverished Third World farming communities and long term solutions to their problems and work their way out of poverty. Those who did sponsor him will already have had his report on the walk but for the rest here is a résumé:-

The plan this year was to complete my unfinished business that was the crossing of California of which 500 miles remained. Then I would continue onwards to walk through Oregon and over the Columbia River by the Bridge of the Gods to begin a crossing of Washington State. Finally, in about the third week of September, I would finish my trek with a short incursion into Canada. I gave myself 11 weeks to walk 1600 miles.

A few days before I flew out to the USA I was interviewed on local radio. "Why", I was asked, "Why do it?" On that first morning of my hike I wish I had the interviewer with me to savour the experience, for then he would have known the answer. The air was clear and the view was of distant snow-capped mountains. A cool wind invigorated my body and in my rucksack I carried food for five days, a warm sleeping bag and small coffin-shaped bivvy bag of Gortex for shelter from anything the weather could throw at me. I strode a high crestline on a path flanked by flowers and snow banks. I savoured an exhilarating perception of complete freedom to take a path that followed a chain of mountains, wildernesses and national parks. Consequences would follow closely upon decisions and as a lone hiker in remote places I was the master of my fate...

The summer of 2000 was an unusually hot and dry one for the western States of America with temperatures into triple figures (Fahrenheit!) though the nights were cool and often frosty. The ground was dry and dusty and on many nights I laid my sleeping bag on bare hard dirt as grass was a rare luxury. I had to tackle distances of up to 35 miles between water sources but the guidebook gave warnings of these problems and I did not go thirsty. I developed a habit of laying up for a long afternoon siesta and minimised my water needs by walking on through nights of the full moon under a clear starlit sky occasionally lit by the glare of a meteor. With care in route planning I could swim on most days in the sparkling clear waters of lakes and creeks.

I averaged close to 25 miles per day but those walked at the start of a new stage were difficult. The townships with the facilities that hikers fantasise about such as restaurants, laundries, stores, hot showers and post offices invariably lay on the floor of deep canyons and were reached by a typical 4000ft descent down north facing slopes. Then came a few hundred yards of level ground before I began the ascent up a hot, south facing slope to regain the lost height but now with a full load of rations for a week's sustenance.

On 1st August I passed into Oregon almost one week ahead of schedule. The condition of the Trail, that in California had sometimes been poor due to lack of maintenance, immediately improved to the extent that when it crossed lava fields the surface had been graded, levelled and infilled with red grit to form a spectacular Hiker Highway. Water became more available and I passed many lakes. At one a fellow hiker prepared a meal for me of kedgeree, made from fish that I watched him catch, spice he carried and rice that I provided...

I almost walked a thousand miles without a rainy day but on the slopes of Mount Hood this personal record came to an end. Although the bad weather was short-lived it marked the start of a deterioration as the Pacific Northwest began to demonstrate the notoriety of its fickle climate. On 1st September in Washington State I woke to the first snowfall of winter at Chinook Pass. By noon this had thawed but within a week came day after miserable day of rain, mist and snow that drenched my gear when even my sleeping bag

wrapped in a garbage bag became clammy with a creeping dampness. Just as my morale bottomed out the sun reappeared and there followed several perfect autumn days on an Indian summer before the cycle repeated itself.

The final days of the hike were magic with even the names of townships along the trail seeming lyrical: Snoqualmie, Skykomish and Stehekin. The mountain scenery was a spectacle that rivalled the High Sierra and even when clouded the views could inspire awe. On the final day the sun shone warmly from a sky of cloudless Technicolour blue and frost flowers growing in the frozen mud of the path crunched crisply beneath my feet. Monument 68 on the Canada/USA border came into sight, its upper segment bent by some avalanche that had clear cut a path for itself through the forest. It marked the end to a journey that for me had been truly through time and space

Abridged by Pat Clarke from Chris' full report.



Ah! the joys of challenge walks so sadly missed during the F&M crisis!

At the COMMITTEE MEETING held on Monday 2nd July, the decision was taken not to run the Wealden Waters Walk in October. The committee felt that, as entrants may be coming from all over the country and the possibility that the F&M crisis will drag on in some parts of the country, it was not worth the risk - however slight - of re-introducing the infection into Kent. If such a thing did happen, it would damage the reputation of not only the Kent Group but the LDWA in general.

NEWS OF DISTANT MEMBERS - Susan & Ivan Verrell have moved. Their new address is

Ann Beeching and Ron Roweth have recently returned from Scotland. Ann completed her round of Munros and Ron has only one Munro left to do. I hope to have Ann's account of this trip for the next newsletter. Editor.

OLD O.S. MAPS FOR SALE - Tom has received the following e-mail:-

I would be grateful if you could pass on the following information to members in your group who may be interested:-

1940 OS maps in good condition covering most parts of Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Northants, Beds, Bucks, Oxon, Wilts, Berks, Herts, Middlesex, Essex, Hamps, Surrey, Kent and Sussex.

Send a stamped and addressed A4 envelope, together with a cheque for £2.00 for each map payable to Guide Dogs for the Blind, and the locality/grid reference for the area of interest to Doug Plumb, [REDACTED]

BLOOMERS - In response to my plea for more bloomers found in route descriptions, Keith Warman has sent in the following (more oddities than outright bloomers!):-

1984 Sevenoaks Circular :-

"Look for Brian's lost shoe!! We did not find it last year."

"The steamroller that was parked on the corner of the road has been moved."

(Ah!, those were the days of handwritten route descriptions!!, Ed.)

1993 Wigan Pier Walk :-

"....with river on right to Checkpoint 4, somewhere on this stretch."

"Ahead along barbed wire fence." (Ouch!)

The following news of FUTURE HUNDREDS is from Tom Sinclair wearing his National Sec's hat:-

1. LAKELAND HUNDRED

(a) Entrants - This is now postponed to 1st to 3rd June 2002 (the Spring Bank Holiday has been postponed by the Government to Tuesday 4th June and Monday 3rd June is an extra Bank Holiday for the Queen's Golden Jubilee). People who have entered and wish to take part should do nothing: they are in and will receive their route descriptions and details in good time for Easter 2002. Anyone who finds this inconvenient can reclaim their entry fee from Natalie Aird, Entries Secretary, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] New entrants who can offer a qualifying event in 2000 (or, of course 2001) will be accepted but if the event is over-subscribed late entrants will be asked to transfer to the Marshals' Walk (May Bank Holiday Weekend, 4th to 6th May, 2002)

(b) Checkpoint Volunteers - All should have received a letter asking them to let Tom know (i) whether they will be available for all or part of the weekend of 1st to 3rd June 2002 and, (ii) whether they have any preferences as to time - probable times 6 p.m. Saturday to 4 a.m. Sunday 2nd.

2. WHITE ROSE HUNDRED - Postponed to Spring Bank Holiday Weekend 2003. Marshals' Walk will be held over August Bank Holiday Weekend 2002. This is because the route will go over some grouse moors and early May, the traditional time for the Marshals' 100, is a very sensitive time in the grouse-breeding season.

3. EXMOOR HUNDRED - Postponed to Spring Bank Holiday Weekend, 2004. The Marshals' 100 will be held over the May Day Weekend.

4. ? HUNDRED - Spring Bank Holiday Weekend, 2005 - see request for offers in "Strider".

Tom S. 4/7/2001.

DONATIONS - as mentioned in the last newsletter, a sum of £200 was been donated from Group funds to The Hospice in the Weald in memory of Peter Rickards. We have now learnt that a total of £2300 was raised for this cause in Peter's name

WEBSITE - Peter Faircloth has now set up a website for the Kent Group. In future, information relating to group activities etc., will be found at the following address :-
<http://www.ldwa.org.uk/kent>

This is linked to the national LDWA site at www.ldwa.org.uk

While on the subject of Information Technology, Tom S. is offering members who have e-mail addresses three options :-

1. They may have their e-mail addresses included in the information given in the annual membership list.
 2. They may give their addresses to Tom for rapid dissemination of information, but not have them generally advertised on the membership list.
 3. They can do nothing, and like me, rely on a stamp, envelope and Postman Pat!!
-

LIMERICK TIME :- My two-line attempt at a Limerick describing Bill Gillibrand's walk around the Biggin Hill area (see April 2001 newsletter) has resulted in this effort from Tom S:-

There was a young fellow called Bill
Whose group walk went mostly uphill
For Bill did aspire
To fly higher and higher
Round the airport that's called Biggin Hill.

Since the outbreak of F&M disease, as well as a shortage of walks to do, there has been a severe shortage of articles for the Newsletter. Remember, I do need items to make up the Newsletters if they are not to become just a list of future walks in the programme. Please don't be shy - if you have anything which you feel will be of interest to other members (reports on walks you have done, plans for walks you hope to do, useful experiences to pass on, etc.) please put pen to paper or finger(s) to keyboard and send your items to Laurie Lowe, [REDACTED]

TO
ORDER
YOUR
MEAL
FOR
THE ANNUAL LUNCH
USE
FORM
OVER
THE
PAGE!!!

ANNUAL LUNCH & FAMILY WALK - SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2001

VENUE :- "The Chequers Inn" at Crouch, near Borough Green.
Map reference - Landranger 188, GR618 555

DATE :- Sunday 9th December, 2001.

TIME :- Sit down 2.00 to 2.15 p.m.

WALK :- There will be a short walk preceding the meal, starting from "The Chequers" car park at 11 a.m. and finishing at approximately 1.15 p.m. to allow time for changing and drinks before the meal.

MENU

STARTER

Cream of Leek and Potato Soup, with Sour Cream and Chives.

MAIN COURSE

Roast Local Turkey Breast with Rosemary & Red Onion Stuffing, Chipolata Sausage, crispy Bacon and Port Gravy. Vegetables of the season.

DESSERT

Homemade Christmas Pudding with Rum and Brandy Sauce.

PRICES :- 2 Courses (main & pudding)£10.50
3 Courses.....£12.95
Coffee.....£1.00

Vegetarian dishes can be provided if required - see order form below.

ACCEPTANCE/BOOKING FORM - to be returned to Trevor Blake, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

NAME of leaderTel. No.....

Number of persons attending, (including leader).....for meals.....

for walk.....

Number of meals (main course & dessert only) at £10.50..... Total = £

Number of meals (starter, main & dessert) at £12.95..... Total = £

Number of coffees at £1.00..... Total = £

Number of vegetarian meals required (to be paid for on the day).....

Total cost = £

Please make cheques payable to "The Chequers Inn" and return them with this form to Trevor at the above address by the Sunday 2nd December.