



LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION *Kent Group*

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

NEWSLETTER



Wealden Waters Walk 2002
Andrew Boulden, Jill Green and Zoe Cocksedge
(see also page 12)

Number 59

December 2002

KENT GROUP WALK PROGRAMME - December 2002 to April 2003

SUN DEC 8

CHRISTMAS LUNCH & FAMILY WALK

At "The Chequers" at Crouch, near Borough Green. GR 618 555. A short, gentle walk will start from the pub car park at 11.00 a.m. and finish at approximately 1.15 p.m. Lunch sit-down at 2.00 to 2.15.

SUN DEC 29

SEVENOAKS TWENTY

Start 8.00 a.m. at Ide Hill car park GR 488 518, Explorer 147. Route follows short version of the Sevenoaks Circular. Pub stop, food available. Contact Brian Buttifant for details, tel. [REDACTED]

FRI JAN 3

WINTER NIGHT WALK

c. 20 mls. Meet 9.30 p.m. for 10.30 p.m. start at the Rose & Crown, Wrotham, (GR 612 592) - NDW/WW. Leader Ivan Waghorn, tel. [REDACTED]

SUN JAN 26

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting will be held at 2 p.m. in Pembury Village Hall (GR 622 407), Landranger 188, Explorer 136. The meeting will be preceded by a short social walk and by a buffet lunch. The walk will start from the hall at 10 a.m. and will be a leisurely, sociable 6 miles (approx.) so that we get back in good time for lunch at 12.45 p.m. Neither walk nor lunch is obligatory but do turn out for the meeting!

SUN FEB 23

SEVENOAKS OUTCROPS WALK

Approx. 10 mls. Start 10 a.m. from One Tree Hill NT car park (Landranger 188, GR 559 532). Finish about 4 p.m. No pub stop, bring packed lunch. Short in length, plenty of incident. Leader Martyn Berry, tel. [REDACTED]

SUN MAR 2

SEVENOAKS CIRCULAR MARSHALS' WALK

A walk for those who will be helping on the day of the main event. Please contact Brian Buttifant on [REDACTED] for details.

SUN MAR 16

SEVENOAKS CIRCULAR

See "Future Events" in STRIDER for full details.

SUN MAR 23

ANOTHER MINNIS MEANDER

c. 20 mls. Meet at Ivy House, Stelling Minnis (GR 147 483) for 9 a.m. start. For further details contact leader, Liz Keeler, tel. [REDACTED]

SUN APR 6

WEST KENT KANTER REVISITED II

c. 20 mls. Meet 8.00 a.m. Ide Hill car park (GR 488 518) for prompt start at 8.15. Pub stop at 12 mls, food available. Same area as previously but with 85% different paths. Leader Laurie Lowe, tel. [REDACTED]

SAT/SUN APR 19/20 or MAY 4/5

NORTH DOWNS LOOP (provisional)

56 mls - Chilham via Dover and Canterbury. Contact leader early April for confirmation of date and details. Leader Ivan Waghorn, tel. [REDACTED]

PUB MEETINGS continue to be 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. All welcome.

COMMITTEE

Chairman.....Paul Hatcher

Secretary.....Tom Sinclair

Treasurer.....Neil Higham

-mail:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Trevor Blake -

Duncan Brice -

Bryan Clarke -

Keith Warman

e-mail:-

Walks Programme - Neal O'Rourke -

Newsletter Editor - Laurie Lowe -

Items taken from the minutes of recent Kent Group Committee meetings:-

Meeting of 4th October – Footpaths. Shirley Higgins had supplied a note which Tom read out, the gist of which was as follows: - "Keith, Laurie and Shirley have been reporting hard – more encouragement needed at AGM. Council PROW officers have been generally co-operative, especially if they know the date of walk, but some problems remain. More responsive if further pressure is applied. Much still to be done, as councils are reactive, not proactive. Too many broken stiles."

Meeting of 6th November – "The editor (of Strider), Julie Welsh, would like any photos you have taken whilst on group walks as it is hoped to print more of these in a new section of Strider."

On the subject of PROWs, I have recently needed to contact the office for the Medway District and was surprised not to be able to find the correct address in various Kent C.C. publications, including the occasional leaflets "Trail News". These give contact details for the offices for West, Mid and East Kent, but ignore the existence of the Medway area!! The reason for this anomaly appears to be that Medway is an Urban Authority, and as such, is completely separate from Kent. For anyone with footpath problems in the Medway area, the address to contact is :- Front Line Task Force, Development and Environment Directorate, Compass Centre Pembroke, Chatham Maritime, CHATHAM, ME4 4YH. With an address like this you may prefer to telephone on 01634 306000.

GORDON BEATTIE – We have been informed of the untimely death at a very young age (believed to be 38) of the former member Gordon Beattie. Details are sketchy but it seems that he suffered some accident while out training near the banks of the Medway. Gordon joined the group as a very fit young man who took part in the usual range of challenge events (on one occasion cycling from Rochester, completing the Sevenoaks Circular, and helping to clear up at the finish before cycling back to Rochester). Gordon later moved on to race walking and achieved great success, rising to competition at national level and international trials.

WHITE ROSE HUNDRED – Paul has taken on the task of organising the meal at the finish from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. on Sunday 25th May, 2003. He would like to hear from anyone who is willing to assist in this undertaking. Kent group has established a good reputation for carrying out this job at past hundreds, so if you can help please contact Paul on

WHITE PEAK WEEKEND AWAY – As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we have had an offer from Keith Bailey to help organise a long weekend in the Peak District. To date 12 people have expressed an interest. The break will take place over 2, 3, and 4th May. Accommodation is still to be arranged but it is likely to be in a camping barn, as it has so far not been possible to find suitable B&B accommodation for a group of this size. It is hoped to be able to give an update at the AGM.

POSER MUD – NEW DEVELOPMENTS POSSIBLE?Jill Green

The recent article by Keith Warman on the subject of Poser Mud has prompted me to give the subject some thought. The product as described by Keith has to be of a special colour to suit the location in which it will be used. If I could obtain the address of the company which produces it, I would suggest to them that it would be better to sell a product which can be sold anywhere in the country and I can assure them that this is what some long distance walkers are wearing at the moment!

On the Founders' Challenge this autumn, I successfully negotiated a steep escarpment with wet leaves. The route description said "Take great care, can be slippery when wet." and it certainly was lethal. I've never done skiing as I do like to feel in control. Once down the slippery descent I relaxed and started down the grassy field. While reading the route description, I skidded down in a very large cow pat. I had it on my hat, in my hair, thick on both hands, on my jumper and on the tee-shirt that was under my jumper. I was helped to my feet by two kind LDWA gentlemen who told me I would come up smelling of roses, and that I now looked like a real walker. Eating food at subsequent checkpoints presented quite a problem, just rubbing my hands on my trousers didn't leave them that hygienic. I did try putting gloves on but they also had large dollops of the offending matter on them.

Now, Poser Sh*t could sell well to those who like to give the impression that they have spent a hard day in the countryside. It could be sold in large tins, but I do require suggestions from Kent members for a suitable name to go on the tin. I also need to tell the suppliers of Poser Mud of a new market area which could catch on with the correct advertising. This is the Isle of Wight art of sh*t-skiing. I've been told about this by local people who do not wish to be named. The sport is enjoyed mainly by boys of between 10 and 12 years who work on family farms. Boys of this age are often required to clean the concrete walkway from the milking parlour to the farm lane or field. It has been noted that cows only defecate when they stand still or walk slowly so if you hurry them up, the cleaning operation is much easier for the boys. However, even using this technique certain animals do defecate, so the art of sh*t-skiing developed.

Now, I have not tried this myself and you certainly don't see it on television. The technique is to hang on to the tail of the trotting cow, lean back slightly (best to have the body weight on the heels with the toes up) I have had the honour of interviewing the Isle of Wight champion sh*t-skier. However, I'm not really certain if the cows enjoy it!
(This is an unabridged and unexpurgated version of Jill's letter.....Editor)

I have had a recent communication from the registered office of the company which is marketing Poser Mud. It contains much useful information but unfortunately details must wait for the next issue of the newsletter Editor.

Subject: Alternative LDWA Etiquette

In response to the article in the August newsletter, here is how it really works:

"The Reality of Social Walks and Challenge Walks" (from the unpublished memoirs of Pete Barnett):

BOTH TYPES OF WALK: Leave home early, so as to arrive at the start in good time. After about ten minutes on the road, perform a U-turn, return home and search for forgotten boots/plasters/mug/wallet/map (delete as applicable). Remember that torch requires new batteries: search all drawers. Find one AAA-size battery. (Torch uses AA size.) Make mental note to call in at garage and buy new batteries.

Obey instructions of marshals/walk leaders at all times, except when this relates to calls of nature, or checkpoint open/close times. Remember that the best time to disappear behind a tree is just before the tricky five-way junction. Make sure that you call out "I'll only be a sec", so as to ensure that the whole party waits for you. On challenge walks, checkpoint times are for guidance purposes only, and the volunteers will willingly delay their departure to tend to a fellow walker. They will also be only too happy to interrupt their preparations to make you a cup of tea from the kettle if the urn hasn't warmed up yet.

If you do not have a car, remember that fellow LDWA members are always willing to offer you a lift. It is only common courtesy, however, to telephone them before they leave home. They will be delighted to make a detour to pick you up from your home, and will consider it an insult if you offer anything towards the costs of petrol.

If you do have a car, remember that the aim of the LDWA is based on Walking, and as an organisation we support environmentally friendly means of getting to the starts of a walk. Public transport should be taken wherever possible. This of course does not apply when you wish to get home in time for the omnibus edition of Eastenders.

CHALLENGE EVENTS: Only enter if you can afford the entry fee, (or can borrow the money to do so). Even if you are unable to finish before Eastenders, there will be plenty of helpers at the checkpoints willing to give you a lift back to the start (or wherever you left your car). Make sure that you read the list of items that the organisers believe that you should carry on the event. That way, when asked to present your kit for checking, you will know what the marshal is talking about. Always carry essential items such as camera, folding stool, and book to read at a checkpoint while waiting for your lift back to the start. The marshal will always lend you batteries, if you did not have time to purchase these at the garage (see above). If you arrive at a checkpoint before the official opening time, stand in front of the desk (or preferably in the entrance doorway of scout hut/village hall, etc), pointing out to the marshal that the route description seemed rather long winded, and there was a much quicker way along the road. Advise the organisers that for future events, they should ensure that the first checkpoint opens before the official start of the event. If you arrive after the closing time, the Marshals may require you to retire, considering that you are unlikely to finish within the allotted time. Remember that this is a mathematical impossibility. Use advanced calculus as necessary.

Chris Barnett.

Two-and-a-Half Pairs of Fell-Walkers with Binoculars Attached

Mike Attewell

I read with some awe and admiration Ann's account of her and Ron's completion of the Munros in a previous edition of the newsletter.

But what really caught my eye was Ann's account of her "safaris" and particularly her sighting of the "rare and very beautiful Dotterel that breeds always on the high plateaux in Scotland."

Some five years ago I had been staying at the Coledale Inn in Braithwaite and found myself with a day to spend prior to meeting my daughter and grandchildren in Keswick.

I decided from such a place to do a variation of the Coledale Horseshoe, an idea germinated a few months earlier when approaching from the road to Whinlatter Pass. The heaviest of hawfrosts made for the bittermost temperature despite the sun, and we had turned back halfway up Grisedale Pike. What had really made the decision was not so much the lure of a pie and a pint in Oddfellows but a well-meaning lady who said the route to the top of Grisedale was much too narrow for my daughter carrying my grandson, just a few months old, which said much more about her conceptions than the reality.

On this occasion I opted for the gentle approach of skirting to the south of Grisedale Pike before crossing the flank and gaining the ridge to the summit so prominent from Keswick and all points to the east.

It was a warm sunny day in late spring - early summer and having toiled to the summit, I sat and took in the full panorama that had been unfolding with every step up the ridge. On leaving the summit I headed for Hopegill Head not just because it is a splendid piece of rock but because it leads to the ridge to Whiteside, certainly one of the best ridge walks in this part of the Lake District and in my opinion in all of Lakeland.

The ridge isn't airy or narrow but every step of the way there are wonderful views along its entire length of no more than a mile and a half but its particular value is at its end when you look down from Whiteside at Lorton Vale, Loweswater and Crummock. Another part of its attraction is that you very rarely have to share it with anyone!

Retracing my steps back to Hopegill Head, I then descended to Coledale Hause and had lunch next to the waterfalls of Liza Beck overlooking the miner's road back to Braithwaite, an escape route that I take more and more often as I get older and also part of this year's 100 route.

On this occasion I took the route to Grasmoor skirting the impressive rock face properly called Eel Crag, although to Wainwright, me and generations of fell-walkers that is the name of the summit I was heading for known only to the O.S. as Crag Hill.

Just short of the summit at around 2,500 feet, I made a rare sighting, two pairs of fellow fell-walkers (apart from the summits of Grisedale Pike and Hopegill Head, I hadn't seen a soul for hours) both pairs were standing motionless staring through binoculars. I inched towards them (my normal approach to a summit!) and asked in hushed tones what was so interesting. "Dotterel" they replied in unison, and sure enough no more than 50 or 60 feet away two pairs of this fascinating bird were to be seen intent on feeding.

Two-and-a-half pairs of fell-walkers with binoculars attached watching two pairs of birds must have been some sight! I had been very lucky, had I remained on my own I would probably not even have spotted these birds and certainly not recognised them at the time.

After ten or fifteen minutes the birds remained but the younger fell-walkers went off in the direction of Grasmoor while the older ones continued along the ridge towards Causey Pike. My new companions said that they had often seen Dotterel in Scotland but this was their first sighting in the Lake District. What fascinates me and others is that the Dotterel is a wader, but you never seem to hear of it at sea level or at estuaries, only above 2,500 feet, its nesting grounds.

I had another reason to be grateful to my new companions. They had come up to Grisedale Pike from Whinlatter Pass before joining my route across Coledale Hause, but after we had scrambled over the rocky nob of Causey and descended the rough track to the road they had another car parked in readiness to take them back to Whinlatter. It had been a long, hot and exciting day on the fells and although it was less than two miles back to my car, I was very grateful for the lift.

INTO SUSSEX

Saturday 26th October 2002

LL

As with any well-planned incursion into neighbouring territories, the starting point of Ernie's expedition was well concealed. Eleven of us managed to find the secret assembly point and Celia's observation post at the alternative (diversionary) starting point was not needed.

An additional feature of this meticulously planned expedition was the perfect weather – by switching from the usual Sunday outing to Saturday, Ernie managed to avoid the storm conditions which arrived in the south east on Sunday.

The route took us through the very attractive area to the east of Robertsbridge and called in at Broad Oak for an excellent pub lunch. Here we were joined by Celia who had closed down the observation post at Lamberhurst and then made her way across country (via Sainsbury's) to rendezvous at the pub. She reported a slight loss at the supermarket and had completed her task in spite of a minor injury.

The only criticism of an otherwise perfect operation was the poor timekeeping. The schedule was to have been: - Start at 08.30, Arrive at pub at 12.30 and finish at 17.00 hrs. In fact we started late at 08.32, reached the pub at 12.32 and completed the mission at 17.02 hrs.

Ernie's name has been put forward for the award of the D.W.L. – Distinguished Walk Leader.

A MARSHAL'S WHITE ROSE HUNDRED

Paul Hatcher.

Having committed myself to helping with the meal at the finish of the White Rose Hundred in May 2003 and needing one more "hundred" for my ten, I had entered the Marshals' walk.

Three weeks earlier Mary and I spent four days on a recce of the sections that could be my nights. In the week leading up to the walk the gremlins started to get to work, a bad throat (tonsillitis and a course of antibiotics). On Wednesday Kevin phoned to say that he would have to withdraw, due to work commitments. By Friday I was feeling really grotty, but put it down to nerves and drove up to Ripon. "If you're going to get like this you are on your own next time" says Mary!

Despite a restless night I feel a lot better in the morning and after a large bowl of porridge, drive to the school and prepare for the 8 o'clock start. Tom is there to see me on my way, also Kevin who had arrived late and has cleared it with the organiser to walk with me as far as he feels able; this is reassuring as it also means that Mary has her usual companion, Jackie, with whom she can visit Tea Shops (Sorry, "Checkpoints")

At 8 o'clock sharp John Sparshatt sends 18 of us on our way and after a couple of miles the rest of the field have pulled away. Apart from two that miss a "L at gate", and rejoin the route behind, then overtake us, we see no more of the field until the 10 o'clock starters start to filter through at about 25 miles.

We reach our first CP at Hampsthwaite (10.7 miles) to find that Mary and Jackie are expecting us from the opposite direction. We have been following the route description!, unlike earlier arrivals. On to our next CP, finding that the map is a necessary aid to our navigation. Two fields before the village hall at Dacre we meet Tom, Jackie and Mary who have come out to guide us in to the next CP - 16.6 miles.

Leaving Dacre Banks proves another test of route finding skills but with Jackie and Mary's help (they were coming our way en route to the church flower festival) we are on our way and enjoying the views across Nidderdale. Along the top of the crags we encounter two youngsters out on a circular walk from Pateley Bridge, they are lost, but with the aid of the map and their route description we get them back on course. We are again met by the girls, this time Jackie buys us ice creams while Mary leads us into CP.3 at 21.8 miles.

Suitably refreshed we are on our way along the 11.4 miles to Scar House reservoir. It soon comes on to rain heavily and as we make our way along the banks of the river Nidd and Gouthwaite reservoir we get some shelter from the trees. After a good drenching the sun reappears. As we think of decagging we come to the road at Bouthwaite and Tom with drinks and flapjack. Now back in shirtsleeves and feeling refreshed we make our way up the valley to Lofthouse, the stiff climb up to Middlesmoor and the long stony track over the moor, with

its steep stony descent to CP.4. The last time we shall see the girls today as they are off to their beds.

Now on the section that I had recc'e'd, we make good progress to Shooting House. With fading light down comes the rain. Torches on, through ankle deep heather and bog makes for a slow 2 miles, although navigation is easy as we are following the fence line. The rain has stopped by the time we leave the fence and start to descend. We have some difficulty trying to follow the path down across the moor in the dark but eventually reach the road at West Scafton, having not trodden on any of the numerous frogs that were on the path. We meet two others who had had trouble getting off the moor, and together we drop down through fields to cross the valley to CP.5 Carlton, 38.4 miles.

Among those at the CP. is Peter Schick one of the late starters, who passed us some 5 hours earlier, he's been here nearly two hours with nausea and asks if he can come along with us for company to the next CP. We are happy to oblige. Now a band of 5 we make our way up the rough track and over the moor, dropping via another stony track into West Burton, then on through a series of fields and narrow squeeze stiles to the road that leads us to the CP. at Thoraby, 44.6 miles.

Here Kevin decides to call it a day, Peter is feeling better and is soon on his way. Percy Wellor, Martin Lawson, and David Keward who were at the CP when we arrived, leave, saying "We expect you will soon catch us up" (David is not feeling too well). I finish my cup of tea, give my thanks to Kevin for his company thus far, say goodbye and leave. Three of us now and a mist hangs in the air as we climb out of the valley on the Stake road (stony track). Once up on the moor with the moon lighting our way we are on pleasant grassy tracks. We see torches over to our left, they are making their way alongside a wall and we meet at a gateway. It is Percy and Co., they had missed an earlier path junction. In the bright moonlight we continue across the moor to pick up the track, that takes us down to Stalling Busk CP.8 (CP.6 on Yorkshire Dales Hundred) When Percy's group come in, David decides he has had enough.

Dawn has arrived as we all leave together, next stop breakfast. Along the side of Semerwater it is decidedly chilly and I stop to put on my fleece. I soon warm up as we make the tough climb round the foot of Wether Fell and into Wensleydale. One mile plus of road and a seemingly endless series of fields and narrow squeeze stiles get us on to the road that leads us to Hawes at 56.6 miles.

Reunited with my baggage and in the limited facilities of the school I manage a wash, to soak my feet, and a complete change of clothes. A quick call to Mary, so that she can collect Jackie and they can unite Kevin with his car keys. Now with a good breakfast inside and feeling refreshed Percy, Martin and I set off down Wensleydale. It is 10 miles of mainly small fields, stiles and mucky farmyards. In Askrigg we sit on the seat by the memorial for a refreshment break. Soon after setting off again we are caught up by the sweepers, who accompany us on and down into Carperby, 66.2 miles. Here I am met by Mike and Val, who have come down from Cumbria for the day to encourage me on my way.

Soon on our way with the sweepers for company, we pass Castle Bolton. They lead us on a diversion (radio message, from information received from earlier walkers) past a footbridge that is in a dangerous state due to the recent heavy rain. This means we skirt round Redmire. On the path through the park of Bolton Hall we have to pause while a herd of cows are taken across the drive for milking. As we leave the park at Wensley, we meet a couple of L.D.W.A. members that have come up for the day, and from the boot of their car are producing chocolate cake, drinks and other goodies for the weary. We give our thanks and force ourselves to move on. Now along the banks of the River Ure we make good progress and a short climb takes us to the Birch Memorial School at Middleham 75.9 miles. We have made better time over the last 10 miles and find that other walkers are still here. Also that Mary, Mike, Val, Jackie and Kevin (who has had some sleep and has come out to walk the next section with us) are not expecting us just yet.

Wanting to make the most of the daylight we soon leave. No longer at the back of the field, we pass the castle and head up the road and over the fields towards the moor. On the moor, navigation slows us down and as we hesitate we are caught up by Julie Brownhill and Gordon Wright plus Raynet. Together we find the track that we need, which takes us over the moor and by a very tortuous descent down into Golinglithfoot. The next section to the CP. is over private land and was to have been flagged, but the farmer worried that his stock could choke on the plastic flags, has removed them, so we are met and shepherded across to the CP. at Leighton Grange Farm, 83.4 miles, to be met again by my full support crew! A last change of socks and as it's now getting dark, it's on with the night gear. This is the last time I will be met by my supporters, they are off for a meal and their beds. Having arranged that a phone call when I reach the finish will have him fetch me back to my B&B, Kevin joins them.

I have recc'ed the next 14 miles, so five of us plus Chris (our own Raynet man) set off. The memory works well, Julie keeps track on map and route description and apart from two short delays while Chris changes first the batteries, then the aerial to his radio we make good progress. We are met by a marshal who advises us of, and shows on the map, a diversion round a swarm of unhappy hornets that have been disturbed by earlier walkers, With this accomplished and now in bright moonlight we shuffle our way to our last CP. Drovers Arms, Belford at 90.3 miles.

Ten miles to go. Percy, Martin, Julie, Gordon, Myself and Chris set out in the moonlight vowing to stop around halfway to make our own CP. After about a mile we come across four others that have fallen out with the route description. (Mary and I had trouble here on our recce.) They join us, now a tired band of 9 we plod on. At Sawley we make our own CP. on the village green. (There is one in the Village Hall on the main event)

4.5 miles to go. We are soon onto the part I have not walked and we meet Terry Griffiths and Maggie Haley who have lost a "Stile by a gate". We consult the

map. We have cause to use the map twice more before we enter Fountains Abbey grounds and are into the last mile. I'm asked to lead the group into the school hall and finish. It is 5.35 am and 45 hours 35 minutes since we left. A warm welcome awaits us.

I phone Kevin as arranged and have my meal. Tom arrives and gives his congratulations. By this time Kevin has arrived to take me to Warren Farm B&B. I thank Percy and all for their company, thank the organisers and depart. Mary hears us arrive and has a hot bath run and a cup of tea on the go, by the time I reach the room. I grab 4 hours sleep before we have to vacate our room. I'm treated to a full breakfast at midday by our landlady and then it's head for home. I drive the few miles back onto the A1 then hand over to Mary to get us back to Kent, and apart from brief interruptions (for navigational instructions) I doze all the way.

I think Percy summed it up perfectly for me in his congratulatory card:-

"Didn't we have an adventure?"

Note:- For anyone who is confused as to why Paul is asking for help at the finish of the White Rose Hundred in May 2003, when he completed the Marshals' walk in August of *this* year, the reason is that access to some moor land areas will be restricted in early May and thus the marshals' event had to be held this year! It's all very confusing isn't it?



THE 6th WELLINGTON BOOT – 14/15th September 2002

Keith Warman has sent me a report on this event, but since the same article will probably appear in the December issue of Strider, I have decided not to include it in this newsletter. In the event that it does not turn up in Strider, I will incorporate it into the next Kent newsletter. Editor.

PHIL'S PHUNNIES

We may associate diamonds with South Africa but here are a few gems collected by Phil Hastings while in that place. They were all seen on the roads:-

As we are aware, bridal cars are often draped with banners "Just Married". On a street in Johannesburg a car was seen painted "Just DiWorst" (Divorced)

A road sign seen in the Kruger National Park which said "Elephants have the right of way."

At Krysna on the South Coast a sign read "Those who throw objects at the crocodiles will be asked to retrieve them!"

Another road sign in the Little Karoo which read "Bonniedale 17 km. Caution. Bumpy road. Please fasten your bras and remove dentures."

And – "Beware of crow with a rubber fetish. Please cover windscreen wipers."

After some severe flooding out in the country a road sign said "Caution, Road Stolen."

LATE NEWS - National Committee: - The closing date for nominations (16th November) has now passed. Nominations have been received for all positions except that of General Secretary. The present Gen. Sec. (Tom Sinclair) has been proposed and seconded for the position of Chairman. The National Committee is therefore seeking a suitable candidate for the position of General Secretary for the forthcoming term of office. Tom would like you to contact him if you have any suggestions.

MORE LATE NEWS - There has been a change of address of the Mid-Kent PROW office. It is now: - Unit C, Marten Park, Marten Lane, High Halden, ASHFORD, Kent. TN26 3JP. Tel. 01233 820797

EVEN LATER NEWS - Terri Samson – formerly the wife of deceased member Mike Smith – wishes to dispose of old Striders and O.S. maps. These are free to anyone who can collect them, but they must be taken by 15th December. Phone her on [REDACTED]

COVER PICTURE - This is from a photograph taken at the finish of the Wealden Waters event in October. It shows Kent members Andrew Boulden, Zoe Cocksedge and Jill Green, all of whom completed their 10th Wealden Waters this year. Brian Russell also completed his 10th but was not around at the time the photo was taken.

Please send items for inclusion in the next newsletter to :- Laurie Lowe, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]