

# ***LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION — KENT GROUP***

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

# ***NEWSLETTER***



Number 62

December 2003

## **KENT GROUP WALKS PROGRAMME – December 2003 to April 2004**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December -

CHRISTMAS CRUISE AROUND CALAIS

14 mls. 07.00 P&O sailing Dover-Calais, returning 21.00 (cost £12). Meet Dover Eastern Docks passenger check-in 06.15. Optional meal before sailing back to Dover. Ring Graham Smith for more details – [REDACTED]

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December -

CHRISTMAS LUNCH & FAMILY WALK

At The Chequers Inn at Crouch, near Borough Green. Landranger 188, GR 618 555. Sit down 2.00 for 2.15pm. There will be a short walk, suitable for all the family, preceding the meal, and starting from The Chequers Inn car park at 11 a.m. and finishing at approximately 1.15 p.m. allowing time for changing and drinks before the meal.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December -

SEVENOAKS TWENTY

The 20 mile route of the Sevenoaks Circular as a group walk. Start 8 a.m. at Weald Scout Hut, GR 531 513 (entrance via track to right of cemetery) Pub stop – food available. Leader: - Brian Buttifant, tel. [REDACTED]

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January -

DOVER TO CANTERBURY

19 mls. Meet Dover Priory Railway Station 8 a.m. Return to Dover by train. Leader: - Graham Smith, tel. [REDACTED]

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January -

A NIGHT ON THE TERRACE

C. 20 mls. Meet 9.30 p.m. for 10 p.m. start at The Wheatsheaf, Kemsing. GR 555 587. Leader: - Ivan Waghorn, tel. [REDACTED]

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January -

NORTH DOWNS WAY – part 1

Farnham to Ranmore Common. 22 mls. Pub stop at Guildford. Meet at Clacketts Lane services (westbound) on M25 at 7.30 a.m. before driving on to Ranmore. Ring Graham Smith for more details [REDACTED]

### **SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY      KENT GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Location: Chart Sutton Village Hall, near Maidstone.

GR: TQ 796 501, OS Landranger map 188.

Walk details: 6-7 miles starting promptly at 10:00a.m. (back by 12:45p.m.) and led by Keith Warman. Meet in the village hall car park from 9:30a.m. The hall is in Chart Hill Road, Chart Sutton (approximately 5 miles south of Maidstone and 5 miles from Junction 8 on the M20). Unfortunately, we will NOT have access to the hall before the walk for toilets but these are available at the motorway service area off Junction 8 for those travelling that way. Upon arrival in the centre of Chart Sutton, Chart Hill Road starts beside the Buffalo's Head PH - heading south, the hall is immediately past the last house on the left.

Buffet: Shirly Gill will prepare a simple two-course buffet with a hot main course and cold dessert. Hot and cold drinks will be available. The buffet is free but please return the attendance slip included with the AGM Notice of Meeting, so that numbers may be ascertained.

Annual General Meeting: Starts at 2:00p.m. and finishes by 4:00p.m.

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February -

## NORTH DOWNS WAY – part 2

Ranmore Common to Betsom's Hill. 20.25 mls. Pub stop at Merstham. Ring Graham on [REDACTED] nearer the date for start time and travel arrangements.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February -

## A MINNIS MEANDER

C. 20 mls. Meet Ivy House, Stelling Minnis, GR 147 483, Landranger 179 or Explorer 138, for a 9 a.m. start. Pub stop - food available. Leader: - Liz Keeler, [REDACTED]

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February -

## SEVENOAKS OUTCROPS WALK.

C. 10 ml. Meet 10 a.m. at One Tree Hill NT car park, GR559 531. Visiting local places of interest. Old clothes advisable! No pub stop, bring packed lunch. Leader: - Martyn Berry, [REDACTED]

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> February -

## SEVENOAKS MARSHALS' WALK

For those willing to help on the main event. Contact Brian Buttifant for details of start place and time on [REDACTED]

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March -

## NORTH DOWNS WAY – part 3

Betsom's Hill to Holly Hill. 21.75 mls. Pub stop at Hildenborough Hall. Ring Graham on [REDACTED] for start time and travel details.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March -

## NORTH DOWNS WAY – part 4

Holly Hill to Charing. 29.75 mls. Pub stop at Detling. Ring Graham for details.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March -

## SEVENOAKS CIRCULAR

See 'Future Events' in the December issue of "Strider" for details. Put the date in your diary so that you can offer to help!

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April -

## STURRY STUMBLE

C. 20 ml. Start 8.30 a.m. prompt from Fordwich Road, about 300 yds south of Sturry Station, GR 178 601, Explorer 150, Landranger 179. Pub stop at Boyden Gate - food available. **Please note slight change of starting point from that given in Strider.** Leader: - Laurie Lowe, tel. [REDACTED]

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April -

## NORTH DOWNS WAY – part 5

Charing to Dover. 30.5 mls. Pub stop at Stowting. Ring Graham on [REDACTED] for start time, etc.

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. Meetings commence at 8 p.m. All welcome.

COMMITTEE

Chairman.....Paul Hatcher(0 [REDACTED])  
 Secretary.....Bill Gillibrand [REDACTED]  
 Treasurer.....Neil Higham ([REDACTED])

Trevor Blake ([REDACTED])  
 Duncan Brice ([REDACTED])  
 Bryan Clarke ([REDACTED])  
 Tom Sinclair ([REDACTED])

email: [REDACTED]

Keith Warman ([REDACTED])

email: [REDACTED]

Social Walks Programme.....Neal O'Rourke ([REDACTED])  
 Newsletter Editor.....Laurie Lowe ([REDACTED])

email: [REDACTED]

Footpath Problems.....Shirley Higgins ([REDACTED])

NOTES FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGSAugust Meeting 2003

Paul and Mary are moving to Cumbria, probably before the end of the year. Paul has about 10 trays of equipment and a freezer to be relocated. Tom volunteered space in his cellar for storage only and someone else would need to administer the contents. The possibility of keeping the catering tighter in future was considered to avoid the need for so much storage. A Catering Officer is required. On behalf of the Committee, Keith wished well to Paul and Mary in their move and expressed thanks and gratitude for all they had done over the last 20 years or so. They will be sorely missed.

Gordon Harker is prepared to organise the White Peak Weekend next year if required.

Sevenoaks Circular:

Duncan had reported that the 20 and 30 mile routes had been defined. The sub-committee is considering a family route of about 14 miles. It was agreed that the 20 and 14 routes would both start at 10.0a.m. The entry fees would be £6 for the 30 miles and £4 for both of the others with an extra £1 for entry on the day.

Southern Triple Challenge

Laurie had requested guidance with regard to badges and certificates now that the Southern Triple Challenge had ceased due to the demise of the Surrey Summits. The Group accounts show £128 attributed to STC. It was thought that there was nothing owing to the other groups involved in the initial setting-up but a check should be made with Neil and the past minutes.

October Meeting 2003. – Tom Sinclair has sent these notes following the October committee meeting:-

As some of you know, Paul and Mary are planning to move northwards and have found a house near Carlisle. The precise timing of the move is not known at the time of writing but, in any event Paul will NOT be available for nomination as Chairman (or, indeed in any other capacity) at the 2004 AGM. Details of the AGM and a nomination form are enclosed with this newsletter and any member who might be interested in serving on the Committee is encouraged to contact an existing member of Committee to find out more about it. Tom will also be standing down and, although Bill is now Group Secretary, two or three new people, including a Chairperson, will be needed. No member of the present Committee is willing to fill the Chair being left vacant by Paul, who will also be leaving a gap for a Quartermaster/Catering Officer for group events.

Paul deserves our hearty thanks for his stalwart work over many years.

**Please think about a job that you could do on the Committee yourself and/or ask a friend.**

#### Future Hundreds

So far Paul has had two volunteers for the EXMOOR HUNDRED in 2004 when, as previously mentioned, the Kent Group will be in a modern Village Hall in Monksilver (79 miles) which is reputed to have a good pub. Offers of help to Paul, please, or, in his absence, Tom. Offers of help to Tom also for the CHILTERN LANDMARKS HUNDRED in 2005 - checkpoint venue not yet known, as we have not yet offered our services.

#### Kent Group Events

As a general rule members of the Group are expected to help on our own events and, if they wish to walk the event, to enter the Marshals' walk. There may be exceptions and the Committee has no wish to lay down hard & fast rules but it is worth mentioning the general understanding particularly, but not solely, for the benefit of new members. Entries for the Sevenoaks Circular Marshals' Walk should be made using the enclosed entry forms.

Tom Sinclair.

#### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following members who have joined the Group in recent months: -

Giles Dorrington, [REDACTED]

Steve Rowland, [REDACTED]

Peter Johnson, [REDACTED]

Guido Blokland, [REDACTED]

George Payne, [REDACTED]

Christopher Rumsey, [REDACTED]

Keith Miles, [REDACTED]

John Brittain, [REDACTED]

Jolanta Thirkill,  
 Michael Stacey,  
 Doug Francis,  
 Nancy Richardson,  
 Sharon Hawkins, 10

AGM again:-

Traditionally the AGM is the time when Brian Buttifant cajoles people into helping on the Sevenoaks Circular ( see Walks Programme for date of Marshals' Event) but it is not essential to attend the AGM in order to help on the event. Why not contact one of the sub-committee i.e. Brian ( ) Duncan Brice ( ) or Trevor Blake ( ) OR better still, fill in the form which is enclosed. and which allows you to indicate your availability to marshal on all three Kent Group events. Of course, an offer of help on even one event would be welcome! Help on marshals' walks is also needed.

Tom Sinclair.

Notes taken from "Kent Trails" – Number 6, Summer 2003:-

Kent's PROW service - The Garden of England has the largest network of public footpaths, bridleways and byways in the country. Twenty-two staff currently look after Kent's 4,273 miles, almost the same length as the county's road network. The three main teams are the first point of contact for maintenance (with contractors, volunteers and landowners) and enforcement issues. They investigate offences and make sure these are resolved, through courts if required.

Although they do a little 'hands on work', particularly in supporting volunteers, you may be surprised to learn that on average, PROW officers spend 50% of their time in the office – on the phone, dealing with correspondence, drawing up specifications and contracts. Increasingly their time is spent on responding to planning applications in order to protect and enhance the network. The other half of their time is spent dashing around their 'patch', inspecting specific sites, supervising contractors or having a site meeting with a landowner. Regrettably, there is little time to enjoy the fresh air and beauty of Kent's landscape!

A New Village Green has been registered at Crab Island and Old Creek Bed, Faversham – the first green in the last 10 years. Only six new greens have been registered since 1990, making a grand total of 172 village greens in Kent. This new green adds to Kent's wonderful variety of open space, from the marshlands of Studland and Cliffe, to the high, wooded commons of the Weald like Crockham, Toys and Ide Hills and the extensive commons at Tunbridge Wells and Southborough.

Pointing the Way – Over 170 new finger posts have gone into the mid Kent countryside over the last few months to indicate path ends and directions from the roadside. The installation of another 80 are planned for in the near future.\*\*

Long Lost Bridges – Over the last year more than 20 new bridges have been installed on the Romney Marsh. During the coming year, a further 20 are planned including six new bridges in the parish of Warehorne. Opening up these paths with new bridges will be a valuable addition to the network.\*\*

\*\* While it is good to hear that progress is at last being made in these areas of concern to us, it does emphasise the poor state that some of the paths in the Kent area have been allowed to fall into. On these figures alone, it means that 250 roadside posts and an incredible 40 bridges were missing. When you realise that the new bridges are all on Romney Marsh, it is no wonder that the Marsh had become such a 'no go' area for serious walkers.....Laurie Lowe.

If you would like to be added to the 'Kent Trails' mailing list, please contact the editor on [REDACTED]

#### LDWA Hundreds – A Register of 10 x 100 Mile Completions by Kent Members

Brian Buttifant.

In the view of most people, ten completions of the annual LDWA hundred is a considerable achievement. With this in mind, I feel a record of members who have achieved this notable landmark should be compiled and kept updated. Some of the people listed below are no longer with us and their achievements should not be forgotten, others are continuing to add to their tally.

This list has been drawn up by contacting members. If there is an error or omission, I apologise and I will put it right in the next newsletter if notified.

| Year of<br>Completion<br>of 10x100's |                 | Year of<br>Completion<br>of 10x100's |                  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1987                                 | Peter Rickards  | 1997                                 | Neil Higham      |
| 1988                                 | Brian Buttifant | 1997                                 | Ivan Waghorn     |
| 1989                                 | Ernie Bishop    | 1998                                 | Ann Beeching     |
| 1989                                 | Ron Roweth      | 1998                                 | Keith Warman     |
| 1991                                 | Phil Hastings   | 2000                                 | Brian Russell    |
| 1991                                 | Peter Barnett   | 2000                                 | Andrew Boulden   |
| 1994                                 | Gordon Facer    | 2002                                 | Paul Hatcher     |
| 1994                                 | Don Newman      | 2002                                 | Roger Thornburgh |
| 1995                                 | Jill Green      | 2003                                 | Martin Fox       |
| 1996                                 | Ann Sayer       |                                      |                  |

Quite a lot!.....Brian Buttifant.

#### REPRESENTING KENT

How about a day out in Nottingham as the representative of the Kent Group? The next meeting of Local Group Representatives will take place on Sunday, 18th January 2004 at Nottingham University. We need someone to represent Kent and they will have their travelling expenses reimbursed. You will not be alone as Tom Sinclair and Paul Hatcher will be there but, as members of the Executive Committee, they cannot speak for us. What about it? Get in touch with one of the Kent Committee.

Bill Gillibrand.

Here are some items from the latest **Local Groups Bulletin**:-

The next Local Groups Representatives meeting will take place at Nottingham University on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2004. It is hoped that a representative from your Group will be able to attend. Details will be sent to you nearer the date. However, in the meantime, you may like to consider what items you would like to see on the agenda and let me know their content as soon as possible.

The National Committee has been considering a standard entry form (SEF) for use when entering events and this has now been finalised. It is hoped that this will be a time efficient and cost effective system for both the entrant and the organisers of events. A copy of this is enclosed. This may be photocopied or additional forms downloaded from the LDWA website at [ldwa.org.uk](http://ldwa.org.uk) and should be available soon. Details of events in Strider can, if so desired, be marked "SEF not acceptable".

The National Committee have investigated the possibility of a badge for the completion of five hundreds in addition to the one already implemented for the completion of ten hundreds. The Hundreds sub-committee looked into this idea and finally the National Committee decided that there did not seem to be enough support for purchasing such a badge and that a single badge for ten hundreds has long been recognised as a significant achievement and it was right that it remained so.

I would like to draw your attention to Pat Ryan's plea for new events which, although not organized by the LDWA, might meet the LDWA requirements and thus be advertised in Strider. If you know of any event that you would like to see advertised please contact Pat Ryan (details on first page of Strider).

Avril Stapleton.

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#### STRIDER BINDERS

from Tom Sinclair

At the request of Tim Glenn, Caretaker Merchandise Officer, Kent Group has purchased a small stock of these binders which are useful for keeping back copies of Strider neat and tidy. They normally sell for £6.50 including postage & packing but National Committee has agreed an 'over the counter' price of £5 when they are sold at pub meets, events, AGMs etc. Kent Group has paid the cost price for 36 binders and will retain any profit. This is part of an overall strategy that the National Committee has adopted in its efforts to achieve a significant reduction in Merchandise stocks in terms of both value and volume.

(For the purchase of binders, see information from Keith Warman below.)

#### Merchandise Officer Needed

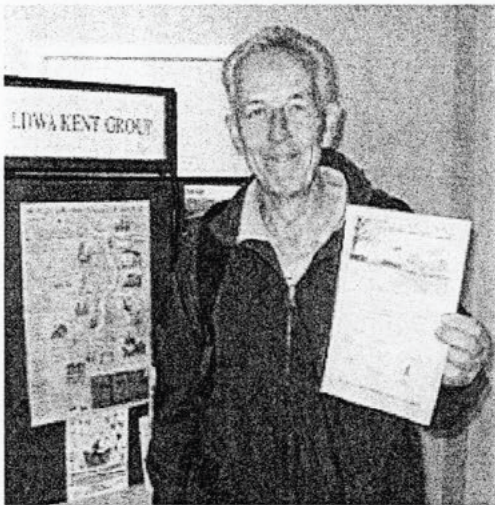
The volume of stock (as witnessed by Tom at a recent annual stocktaking) is likely to be a deterrent to any LDWA member - and even to an agency - who might otherwise be interested in taking over from Tim after the National AGM in March 2004.

However, it is hoped that, in about 6 months' time, the Merchandise function will have been reduced to more manageable proportions so that any member with spare space in the loft, garage or cellar and a little bit of retail experience could consider taking the job on board. Initial enquiries to Tom Sinclair please.

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SPECIAL OFFER - STRIDER BINDERS from Keith Warman.

As a result of a favourable purchase, the Group has for sale new Strider binders (complete with rods and spine year stickers) as advertised in the LDWA Merchandising leaflet which is enclosed with each Strider. The price is £5.00 each - a saving of £1.50 on the LDWA Merchandising price. Keith Warman, from whom telephone orders may be placed on [REDACTED] holds the stock. Regrettably, it will not be possible to post them, so they will be available for personal collection by prior arrangement from Keith's home or he will make arrangements to bring them to social walks (if he is going along!) or Group challenge walks. Just give him a call to reserve your binder(s) and he will set them aside for you. We have approximately 25 only, so order early to avoid disappointment!



Roger Thornburgh receives his certificate after completing the Wealden Waters Walk. This was Roger's 10<sup>th</sup> successful completion and it was reported that he looked in better condition at the end of the walk than he did when he started!

Late News:- **WHITE PEAK WEEKEND.** Gordon Harker has provided the following details – Dates Fri 18<sup>th</sup> to Mon 20<sup>th</sup> June (3 nights) and at the same camping barn as last year in Warslow. The barn, which sleeps up to 33, will cost £70 in total. Self-catering and take own bedding. Excellent kitchen facilities and large lounge with TV. Central heating throughout (slot meter) and showers. Dormitory accommodation, 3 rooms with 8 beds and 3 rooms with 3 beds. There is much of local interest for those who may not want to walk.

Contact Gordon on [REDACTED] for more details and to book your place – the more who go the cheaper it becomes!

I need **your** input for future Newsletters. Send me your views, reports, anecdotes, etc. What about writing an account of a challenge walk completed (or not!), or of a walking holiday at home or abroad. Typed copy is ideal, but handwritten articles will be just as welcome! Do you have any illustrations that might be suitable for the cover of the Newsletter? Is there anything that you would like to see included in future issues? Please contact me:-

Laurie Lowe, [REDACTED]