

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION — KENT GROUP

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

NEWSLETTER



A walker is told that he is out of time at the 95-mile checkpoint on the LDWA 100
Photo from Jill Green



Number 63

April 2004

KENT LDWA WALKS PROGRAMME - April to August 2004

Sunday 4th April

STURRY STUMBLE

20 mls. Start 8.30 am. 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. Leader – Laurie Lowe, [REDACTED].

Good Friday 9th April

SOUTH DOWNS WAY LOOP

26 mls. Start 9 am. from Eastbourne. Meet at western end of promenade (B2103) where road bends right and at South Downs Way marker post, GR 600 972, Explorer 123, Landranger 199. Park along promenade road, before school on left. Seven Sisters Marathoners will know this spot! Pub stop(s?) – food available. Leader – Graham Smith, [REDACTED]

Sunday 11th April

NORTH DOWNS WAY, part 5

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

Sunday 25th April

ASHFORD RING

c. 22 mls. Start 8.30 am. from Kingsnorth Village Hall, please use second car park, GR 005 393, Landranger 189, Explorer 139. Complete circumnavigation of Ashford. Pub stop, food available. Please contact leaders before day to confirm details. Leaders – Jan & Neal O'Rourke, [REDACTED]

Sunday 9th May

SAXON SHORE STOMP

A 40 ml unsupported walk. Possible refreshment stops en route. Meet Faversham Railway Station at 6am. (parking fee) For more details contact Joy Davies on [REDACTED]

Sunday 23rd May

A CRANBROOK CRAWL

c. 20 mls. Start 8.30 am. from Cranbrook car park (near windmill), GR 777 360, Explorer 136, Landranger 188. Pub stop – food available. Leader - Maurice Faircloth, [REDACTED]

Sunday 13th June

SHEPHERDSWELL SAUNTER

c. 20 mls. Meet Shepherdsweil village green, GR 263 477, (near church) Landranger 179, Explorer 138, for 8.30 am. start. Pub stop, food available. Leader – Liz Keeler, [REDACTED]

Sunday 27th June

HEART OF THE WEALD MARSHALS' WALK

Only for those willing to help on the main event. Contact Jan or Neal O'Rourke on [REDACTED]

Saturday 10th July

BOULOGNE TO CALAIS

c. 31 mls. Meet Dover Eastern Docks at 7 am. to catch ferry to Calais and then train to Boulogne. Walk back to catch approx. 11 pm. ferry to Dover. For details contact Graham Smith on [REDACTED]

Sunday 11th July**HEART OF THE WEALD – MAIN EVENT**

Offers of help to Jan and Neal on [REDACTED] Note – you do not *have* to do the Marshals' walk in order to qualify for helping on this group event!

Thursday 22nd July**TROSLEY EVENING TRAMP**

6/7 mls. Meet 7 pm. at The George pub car park, Trottiscliffe, GR 641 599, Landranger 188. Leader - Ivan Waghorn, [REDACTED]

Sunday 25th July**BIRCHINGTON BOP**

c. 26 mls.. Meet at 8 am. at Minnis Bay Beach, Birchington (park on road near café), GR 285 695, Landranger 179. Pub stop and possible food. Contact leader for details. Leader – Gordon Harker, [REDACTED]

Sunday 15th August**ERIDGE EXPEDITION**

c. 20 mls. Start 8.30 am. Eridge Station car park, GR543 346, Explorer 135, Landranger 188. Pub stop – food available. Leader - Shirley Higgins, [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. Meetings commence at 8 p.m. All welcome.

Wanted – Social Walk Leaders

The Social Walks Programme depends on members who are willing to lead walks for the Group.

If you have a favourite walk or an area which you know well and enjoy walking in, then why not introduce it to others in the Group by offering to lead a walk. A distance of about 20 miles or more, depending on the time of year and length of day, with a pub stop or picnic lunch and pub for a drink would be ideal.

For help and advice contact Neal or Jan O'Rourke on [REDACTED] (answering service) or write to JANEAL, [REDACTED]

Please note the following deadlines for submitting walks to Neal for inclusion in Strider:-

- Mid-January for the April issue
- Mid- May for the August issue
- Mid-September for the December issue.

Note also that the Group Newsletter has later deadlines, so any last minute changes in the details of walks or additions to the programme can be added to the information published in Strider. The corresponding dates for the Newsletter are: - early March, early July and early November.

COMMITTEE

Chairman.....Brian Buttifant....

Secretary.....Bill Gillibrand....

Treasurer.....Neil Higham.....

Members..... Trevor Blake.....

Duncan Brice.....

Bryan Clarke.....

Gordon Harker....

Mick Sullivan....

Keith Warman....

Social Walks Programme.....Neal O'Rourke...

Footpath Problems.....Shirley Higgins...

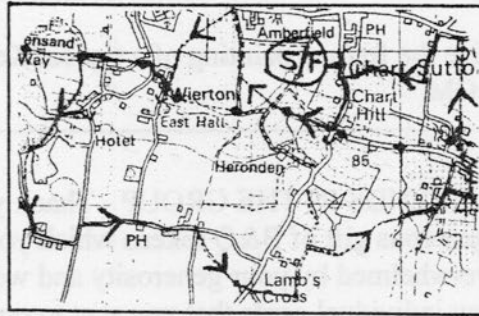
Newsletter Editor.....Laurie Lowe.....



Two new members of the Committee – on the left is Mick Sullivan, while on the right is Gordon Harker.

Group AGM, Sunday 25th January, Chart Sutton

Before getting down to business, nineteen members were led on a circular 7-mile walk by Keith Warman. The weather was perfect – blue sky, bright sunshine and frost underfoot. Although Keith must know this area very well, it being his local stomping ground (or at least it would be if he did anything as vulgar as stomping), he still took the precaution of carrying a photocopy of a section of the local map – see below, actual size!



Meanwhile, Shirlie Gill and her helpers were setting out the delicious meal that was to be ready for our return to the village hall. There was plenty of food for everyone and even seconds for those who wanted them.

In a flurry of activity, tables were cleared, the washing-up done and the tables rearranged for the meeting. There was a good turnout for the AGM – with 34 members attending.

Before the official business got underway, Tom thanked retiring chairman Paul Hatcher for all the work that he and Mary had done for the group in recent years. Paul and Mary are moving north to live in Cumbria and to mark the occasion Tom presented them, on behalf of the group, with a framed painting of a typical Kent countryside scene. As a measure of their dedication to the Group, Mary and Paul had delayed their final departure for the north until after the meeting – they planned to drive to their new home during that same evening.

The main business of the meeting was the election of officers and committee members. Brian Buttifant has taken on the post of Chairman, Neil Higham and Bill Gillibrand were re-elected treasurer and secretary respectively. The six committee members for 2004 are Trevor Blake, Duncan Brice, Bryan Clarke, Gordon Harker, Mick Sullivan and Keith Warman.

Group Events:

It was announced that the Wealden Waters Walk will not be held this year and that a decision had not been made on the future of this event. It was noted that Essex & Herts Group might move this year's Three Forests Way to the earlier October slot vacated by the W.W.W. The Heart of the Weald Marshals' Walk will take place on 27th June and the main event will be on 11th July.

Minutes of AGM are included with this newsletter.



Paul and Mary Hatcher receive the framed painting of a typical Kent countryside scene from Kevin Puttock at the AGM.

TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN THE GROUP - Thank you all so much for the lovely picture and very generous gift of B&Q tokens which you presented to us at the AGM. We were both overwhelmed by your generosity and we greatly appreciated your kind words and the many individual cards that you sent to our new home.

We will of course miss you all but it is nice to know that we have so many good friends. No doubt we will see some of you on walks and LDWA events during the year and, as you know, if you're up in Cumbria you are more than welcome to come and see us. We even have a spare room. Don't all come at once!

Grateful thanks,

Paul & Mary.

A NIGHT ON THE TERRACE

Friday 9th January, 2004

"Have we time for a last drink?" someone asks as we prepare to get our gear on. It is 10.15 pm. at The Wheatsheaf pub, Kemsing.

Ten of us eventually leave the car park at 11 pm. The night is clear and dry. To see us off Phil Hastings has turned up with his wife Ann. Phil was an early member of the LDWA. A strong walker, qualifying for membership of the Centurions by walking 100 miles in 24 hours.

Straight up onto the Downs to follow the North Downs Way to Otford, first pausing at the top of Otford Mount at Ted Launden's commemorative seat. Ted was an early committee member of the LDWA.

Through Otford Cemetery, (is someone really buried here standing up?) to follow the Darent Valley Path for a short while. A second stiff climb up on to the Terrace above Shoreham. At the end of the Terrace, we stop for a short break.

The next stretch took us into Lullingstone Country Park, entering through the gate by the highest ladder stile in Kent! Downhill now to the Lullingstone Centre picnic area. A pleasant spot to eat and drink with seating, tables and security lights at 3.30 am.

Nobody wanted to move too soon from here but we had to press on. The Darent Valley Path took us near to Shoreham before a very steep climb out of the valley and over to Austin Lodge Farm. Yet another climb up to the Fox & Hounds pub at Romney Street, unfortunately closed at 4.45 am.!

"Does anyone want to take the short way back?" I asked. The planned route from here was 5 miles, the quick way 3 miles. After several moments, a voice suggested that he would take the short route as he was playing hockey later that day, then needed some sleep before the Winter Tanners Marathon on the Sunday. Most mortals just want 10 hours sleep following a night walk.

Three of us took the short route, arriving back at 6.00 am. The others, led by Dave Sheldrake got back a little later at about 7 am.

Well, we had a good night walk. I think everybody enjoyed it and we did not lose anyone this year!!

See you next year for the 22nd event.

Ivan Waghorn (leader)

SEVENOAKS CIRCULAR MARSHALS' WALK

Sunday 29th February 2004*

This was a very special day according to Keith – 2004 is a leap year in which the month of February has five Sundays - something which happens only very rarely. Just how rarely, I cannot remember. Ask Keith the next time you see him!

About 20 walkers plus those organising the checkpoints assembled in the car park in Sevenoaks on a fine, crisp, frosty morning. A select few of us elected to do the 20-mile route at a leisurely pace, while the majority set off on the full distance. We were to meet up with a few of the 30-milers again when an all important "Stag" was not observed by those travelling at high speed!

There had been a hard frost overnight so what mud there was stayed frozen for several hours. The early part of the route had a multitude of stiles which came in all shapes and sizes and various states of repair. It was here that my Adult Education evening class "Negotiating Stiles for the Elderly" (also known as "Stile Style") came in useful. As one gets older, one needs all the help available in these matters.

The 30-milers missed out on one of the best features in the area. The 20-mile link route incorporated a long section of 1-in-4 ascent followed by what seemed like 200 high steps leading up to the Greensand Way at Toys Hill. We paused at the top to admire the view, which consisted mainly of ourselves gasping for breath.

The checkpoint at Shipbourne Church was an amazing scene as Fiona and Tom tried to extricate themselves from a swirling mass of scouts from the Tonbridge district who were being marshalled before being despatched in various directions. In contrast, checkpoints 2 and 3 were quietly and efficiently run by Ann and Ivan Waghorn (I am not implying that the Shipbourne checkpoint was not efficient, but it certainly was not quiet) I was impressed by the pavilion at Emmets which turned out to be a cosy log

cabin. Our small but select group had the unusual distinction of being the last through checkpoint 1 and the first (except for Duncan) to arrive at what was for us was checkpoint 3.

The general opinion was that the new route is very good and will be worth retaining for several years. I am confident that the paying customers in March will agree!

Laurie Lowe.

WHITE PEAK WEEKEND.— Dates Fri 18th to Mon 20th 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!

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

Compiled by Brian Buttifant.

Unfortunately two people were omitted from the list printed in newsletter 62 – they are Richard Tombs and Peter West-Kelsey. If there are any other omissions or inaccuracies please let me know.

Year of Completion of 10x100's		Year of Completion 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	1998	Peter West-Kelsey
1991	Richard Tombs	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		

Brian Buttifant.

Shirley Higgins has supplied the following up-to-date information on PROW offices throughout Kent. These are the places to contact if you experience any problems while using public rights of way. If you wish to report a problem and are not sure which area the path is in, contact Shirley and she will identify the appropriate area office for you.

KCC PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY TEAMS

January 2004

MAIN OFFICE

KCC PROW Office 2nd Floor, Invicta House, Sessions Square, Maidstone, Kent ME14 IXX

Fax 01622 221636 E-mail PROW@kent.gov.uk Web site www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

WEST KENT PARISHES

Team Manager Graham Rusling (Ext1)

KCC PROW West Kent Office Environment & Economy Division. 8 Abbey Wood Road, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent. ME19 4YT

Phone 01732 872829 Fax 01732 872830 E-mail westprow@kent.gov.uk

MID KENT PARISHES

Team Manager Jonathan Carpenter

KCC PROW Mid Kent Office Environment & Economy Division. UnitC, Marten Park, Marten Lane, Ashford, Kent. TN26 3JP

Phone 01233 820797 Fax 01233 822159 E-mail midprow@kent.gov.uk

EAST KENT PARISHES

Team Manager Andrew Hutchinson

KCC PROW East Kent - Environment & Economy Division
Mezzanine Floor, Maybrook House, New Street, Dover, Kent. CT17 9AJ

Phone 01304 216307 Fax 01304 216265 Minicom 01622 696900 E-mail eastprow@kent.gov.uk

Medway Council PROW Team

Development & Environment Department

The Compass Centre, Pembroke, Chatham Maritime, Chatham, Kent. ME4 4YH

Phone 01634 331467 or 470 Fax 01634 331758

Bexley Council PROW Team

Environment & Regeneration Services

Bexley Civic Offices, Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent. DA6 7LB

Phone 020 8303 7777 Fax 020 8319 9636 Web-site www.bexley.gov.uk

Bromley Council PROW Team

Environmental Services Directorate

Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley. BR1 3UH

Phone 020 8464 3333 Fax 020 8313 0095 Website WWW.bromley.gov.uk

East Sussex – Rights of Way Office, County Hall, St. Anne's Crescent, LEWES, East Sussex. BN7 1UE.

Phone 01273 481000. Rights of way officer – Matthew Harper, 01273 482324

EXMOOR HUNDRED

In January, Bill received a letter from the Cornwall & Devon Group giving details of the Exmoor 100 that unfortunately did not get into the December Strider. For anyone who may be thinking of a last minute entry for this event, here are the relevant details:-

Entry forms can be obtained by sending an S.A.E. to George and Annie Foot, [REDACTED] or the form can be downloaded from Group's website which has a link from the main LDWA website.

If there are any members who would like to do the event but who do not have a current 50-mile qualification, this rule is being relaxed after 1st February. Anyone is welcome to phone Terry Bound [REDACTED] or George Foot [REDACTED] if they want to know whether their entry will be accepted.

EXMOOR HUNDRED – Kent Group Checkpoint

Paul Hatcher
[REDACTED]

Exmoor Hundred 29-31 May, 2004 - Kent Group Checkpoint 12.
E.M.U. Hall, Monksilver, GR.075374

Thank you to all that have offered to help. If you have not heard from me could you please give me a nudge? If you would like to and are able to, PLEASE give me a call.

Our checkpoint is in a modern Village Hall at just under 80 miles into the route and it is understood that there is a good pub nearby. The checkpoint is due to open at 4.30 am. and close at 23.30pm. on Sunday 30th May. It is also understood that we will have use of the hall on Saturday and Sunday nights for sleeping.

The proposed shift pattern is:-

A small team to go in Saturday evening (once we have the keys) to set up the Hall (maybe some of the first shift will want to sleep over)

First Shift – minimum of 4 people from 4.00 am. to 10.30 am.

Second Shift – minimum of 6 people from 10.00 am. to 5.30 pm.

Third Shift – minimum of 6 people from 5.00 pm. to 11.30 pm.

Yours, with all good wishes on behalf of Kent group.

Paul.

Late news – Paul has contacted me to say that he has sufficient volunteers for the middle shift but he needs more help for the first and third shifts. Please contact him as soon as possible if you are able to help out. His new phone number is [REDACTED]

Editor

NEWS FLASH - WALKER BITES FOX

Well actually that was just to attract your attention. It was really "fox bites walker", but you guessed anyway.

A Kent Group member out walking his wife and dog early one morning was startled by the racket caused by his dog and a fox having a head-to-head argument in a hedge. The dog was on the other side of the hedge so our intrepid walker had to, in order to separate the two, pull the fox away from the dog. He took hold of the fox's tail and yanked, with the result that the fox turned his head back and bit the hand that had him by the tail. Result a badly bitten hand. At the same time brave wife had gone to the other side of the hedge and picked up the dog (the dog by the way was about a quarter the size of the fox.) A visit to the walker's doctor's surgery at opening time (8 a.m.) brought all the staff around to inspect these unusual wounds. Our brave walker was soon injected, bandaged and sent home to convalesce.

Bryan Clarke.

Report from the Local Groups Representatives Meeting

This is the second time that I have attended this meeting and I feel that it is very worthwhile. I am sure that it can only help to strengthen the LDWA local group structure. As well as the formal business, there was time during the morning and afternoon breaks, also during lunch, to meet and chat with the representatives from other groups (some old friends, some new faces) Of the 43 groups, 23 attended and 11 sent their apologies.

On advertising and recruitment – it was thought that although we should do all we could to recruit younger members, the main thrust of any campaign should be towards the 35/45 age group.

Are there too many challenge walks? In some areas there is a lack of overnight/50-mile events. If groups have not got enough active members to run events, maybe they should be encouraged to share the organisation with their neighbouring groups, as is already done in some areas.

Should the events calendar be restructured? A register of available dates is kept to avoid date clashes. The Events Secretary could look into this, but it was thought that it would be difficult for him to dictate dates. It would be better to encourage liaison between groups in the same catchment area. It was felt that although this was already done by some groups, it should be stressed to all walk organisers so as to avoid clashes.

Checkpoint closing times do not always allow for slower walkers. Although this was sometimes unavoidable due to the constraints of the hall hire agreements, etc., guide lines in the form of a graph could go some way to helping solve the inconsistencies that occur on some events.

On the subject of risk assessment for events. If all reasonable care was taken to avoid dangerous situations, for example, broken stiles reported to local authorities well in advance of the walk, and phrases such as "Cross With Extreme Care" inserted into

route descriptions at busy road crossings, then there was not much more that could be done.

In answer to two groups who were concerned about the lack of funds to put on events or to hold an AGM, it was pointed out that all groups could apply for a grant from the National Committee should they so wish.

London Group asked about the possibility of the twinning of groups. Some groups were prepared to look into this, while others said that they had already been doing it.

Merchandise was discussed at length and it was generally agreed that although Tim had done a grand job, he had got carried away with the range and amount of stock he had to offer and it was unreasonable to expect anybody to take the job on. Tim had volunteered to get stock down to a reasonable level of LDWA-related stock within two years.

It was suggested that an under 30's LDWA membership should be investigated (as in The Ramblers). This would be looked into but the general feeling was that this ground had already been covered under the discussion on recruitment.

There were a number of adverse comments on the latest edition of Strider (December Edition) mainly regarding difficulty with reading the small type size. It was reported that this had been an experiment to try to fit more content in, as well as to achieve a new look. Julie was speaking with the printers on other ways to achieve this aim. Meanwhile she had warned that the cover of the April edition would look "different" as it was to be used for promotion at the Outdoors Show, 2nd – 4th April at the NEC Birmingham.

From Your Cumbrian Correspondent

Footpaths on the Internet

Kent's rural footpaths are to be recorded on a computer database accessible to walkers who want to search out a route in the county. About half of Kent's 4,200 miles of paths should be recorded over the coming year with a special countryside access website being launched in the summer. If you want to be kept informed on progress send an email to walkkent@kent.gov.uk quoting 'website launch'. Kent now also has a dedicated helpline for reporting path problems – 0845 345 0210

Exclusive Self-Catering Accommodation in France, in the Quercy Blanc
area of the Midi-Pyrenees.

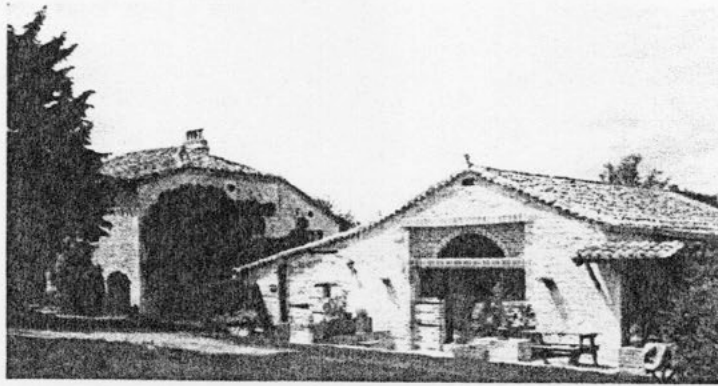
Two spacious one-bedroom gîtes carefully renovated from a 19th century Quercynoise barn.
Each gîte is suitable for 2 adults (free from the noise of holidaying children).

12m x 6m swimming pool fed by spring water.

Peaceful secluded setting in 6 acres of enclosed country grounds.

No smoking in gîtes.

Regret no pets; we have our own cat, Monty.



Resident Owners: Brigitte and Peter Dentten

Al Buc
Melet
46170 Sainte
Alauzie France

Tel No (from UK): 0033 5 65 21 80 61

E-mail address: bandpatalbuc@wanadoo.fr

Summer Rates 2004 Weekly per gîte for rental commencing on a Saturday in the month of:
May: £320 June and September: £350 July and August: £400 Please contact us for
further information, availability, and Booking Form.

Many of you will recall LDWA members Brigitte and Peter. I have more information about the
accommodation, places of local interest, events in the area (including two stages of the Tour de France
in July!) as well as booking forms. Contact me if you are interested – Laurie Lowe.

The next Newsletter will be the August issue. Please send your news items, articles,
reports, etc. to me by early July. Laurie Lowe, [REDACTED]