

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION — KENT GROUP

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

NEWSLETTER



Walkers leaving Wadhurst at the start of the Heart of the Weald walk in July



Number 64

August 2004

KENT LDWA WALKS PROGRAMME – August to December 2004

Sunday 15th August

ERIDGE EXPEDITION

C. 20 mls. Start 8.30 am. Eridge Station car park, GR 543 346, Explorer 135 or Landranger 188. Pub stop – food available. Leader - Shirley Higgins, tel: [REDACTED]

Sunday 12th September

WROTHAM WROMP

C. 20 mls. Start 8.30 am. West Street car park, Wrotham, GR 610 593. Pub stop, possible food available. Leader – Ivan Waghorn, tel: [REDACTED]

Sunday 26th September

LES TROIS CHATEAUX ENCORE UNE FOIS

34 mls. Meet for prompt start 7.30 am. at Cranbrook car park near windmill. GR 776 359. Unsupported walk linking Scotney, Bodiam and Sissinghurst castles. Only for those able to complete the distance. Pub stop, food available. Leader - Maurice Faircloth, tel: [REDACTED]

Sunday 3rd October

ANOTHER MINNIS MEANDER

C. 20 mls. Meet Ivy House, Stelling Minnis, GR 147 483, for 9 am. start. For further details contact Liz Keeler on [REDACTED]

Sunday 7th November

ANOTHER HAWKHURST HORROR

C. 20 mls. Meet Hawkhurst car park (just beyond Bus Garage on left from the traffic lights, going East), GR 764304 Landranger 188, Explorer 136, for 9am start. Pub stop-food available. Leader Maurice Faircloth, tel. [REDACTED]

Sunday 19th December

ANNUAL FAMILY LUNCH & WALK

This will be held at "The King's Arms", Meopham Green. A traditional 2-course Christmas lunch will be preceded by a short walk led by Jim Oddy. Full details and booking form are included on a separate sheet enclosed with this newsletter.

Friday 7th January

NIGHT WALK

18 or 20 mls. Meet 9.30 pm. for 10.30 pm. start at "The George" public house, Trottiscliffe, GR 641 599. Out on the Wealdway, return on the North Downs Way. Leader - Ivan Waghorn, on [REDACTED]

Please note that Neal O'Rourke would like to stand down as Social Walks Organiser at the next AGM. Neal and Jan have taken over the organisation of The High Weald series of walks and because of this and other personal commitments, they hope that someone will come forward to take on the job of Social Walks Organiser. Contact Neal for information on what is involved.

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.....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.....

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ARE YOU ON EMAIL?

It has been suggested that time and money could be saved if this Newsletter were sent out by email wherever possible. Accordingly I am asking anyone with that facility if they will be willing to take part on an experimental basis. In the first instance, you will still receive the Newsletter by post so that you can compare the results and you are putting yourself under no obligation.

It is proposed that the Newsletter be sent as a 'doc' attachment and you will need Microsoft WORD to open it. Guidance will be given for those not used to dealing with attachments. Unless you have broadband, it is likely that it will take about 10 minutes to download. Your email address will not be disclosed to third parties but be aware that the Newsletter will be sent as a group mailing and it is always possible for recipients in that group to determine the addresses of the other members.

In addition, I occasionally receive details by email about walks, events, accommodation or other items of interest and cannot pass them on until the next Newsletter when it is usually too late. Please indicate if you would like to receive such items. There are not many and I would not pass on blatant advertising, junk mail etc.

I already have the email addresses of a few members but will not include anyone unless I have a positive statement from them. If you are prepared to take part, please send an email to **ldwakent@btopenworld.com**. Do not send it to the address given in the last two editions of Strider which is completely wrong. Put 'Newsletter' as the subject and give Yes/No answers to:

- A Do you wish to try receiving the Newsletter by email?
- B Do you wish to receive other information that may be of interest?

Do not forget to give your name if it is not clear from your email address.

Many thanks,

Bill Gillibrand.

Notes from Committee Meetings

Meeting of 13th April: It was confirmed that the next White Cliffs Challenge would not be before the autumn of 2005, although no firm decision has been made as to when the next event will be held. Gordon Harker has devised a route bypassing Canterbury.

2005 Dates.....Sevenoaks Circular – 20th March. This will be the 30th event.
Annual General Meeting – 30th January. Venue will be Chilham Village Hall.

Neil Higham confirmed that Group subscriptions could be paid by standing order, details of the bank account that will have to be quoted to set up such an order are available from Neil.

Meeting of 1st July: It was agreed that a donation of £250 be made to the Kent Air Ambulance out of the profits from the running of the Sevenoaks Circular. It was anticipated that the same route for the event would be used next year, with a possible amendment to avoid a dangerous stretch of road.

Gordon Harker had volunteered to be the contact if the White Cliffs Challenge were to be held in 2005. He has proposed a 50 mile route with a 62 mile option.

THE EXMOOR HUNDRED – One person's view

Because I'm a glutton for punishment and because our eldest daughter, Sally, lives near Taunton, I rashly volunteered to lend a hand on the Marshals' Walk as well as helping on the Kent Group checkpoint on the main event. Hazel Bound (C & D Group), Ben Evens (driver) and I (navigator) were closing down checkpoints and thus could only snatch a few hours sleep on both nights. It also meant that we didn't see anything of the faster walkers, e.g. Ken Falconer, Roger Michell and Jill Green (Kent Group member) between checkpoint 2 and the finish when they had got their heads down for a few hours and were ready to talk over several cups of tea. However those not-so-fast walkers who didn't already know me were recognizing me in the latter stages and even greeted me at the start of the main event. On the Marshals' Walk there were 32 starters and 21 finishers including Jill Green.

Four weeks later Sally and family were in the throes of moving so her husband, John, booked Jenny and me, plus Sally and daughter into a self-catering cottage at Kilve, which is on the A.39 and conveniently placed for both the HQ at Minehead and the Kent Group checkpoint at Monksilver. I have lost count of the number of people I saw at the start but amongst them was Dave Green (husband of Jill in case you didn't know) who had volunteered to set up our checkpoint and whom I arranged to meet later that day when we loaded all the food plus the group gear I had brought into the back of his car.

The evening found Jenny (whose birthday it was) and I dining in the Notley Arms, Monksilver, with Sally and John and Dave Green whose conversation enhanced the landlord's good food and wine. Just as we were about to leave Janet Phyll and Mike Sullivan arrived so I was able to introduce them to Dave and leave them and Bill Gillibrand to look after the first shift when we opened at 4.15 a.m. All four were in good spirits (apart from moaning about a runner who had started at 10 a.m. and woken them at 3 a.m.) when I arrived at 9 a.m. on the Sunday. Already there were Ivan and Susan Verrell who had driven up from Devon and were a very welcome addition to the expected team of Ann Beeching,

Martyn Berry, Celia Bishop and Ron Roweth. Andrew Boulden*, recovering from severe back trouble, was another welcome addition, working well with Ron on the check-in desk while others slaved over a hot stove. Celia was a little late joining us because she had gone to pick up Ernie who had suffered a nasty fall but who, before long, had recovered sufficiently to lend a hand in typically unselfish fashion. Fiona Nutburn was also in evidence having seen Merv go through earlier.

Brenda Buttifant later brought in Brian, who had retired at 46 miles (a jolly good effort). Shirlie Gill helped for a few hours until Keith came in – (accompanied by Tony of the Gloucestershire Levingtons) and I heard later that, having walked out most of the route with Keith, she had been able to help a group of Kent Group members and others who were having difficulties with route finding during the 2nd night. Indeed the next time I saw her she was walking in to the finish with Roger Munn who completed his 1st Hundred as did Gordon Harker. Congratulations to them and all finishers and commiserations to Brian and Ernie and to Paul Hatcher whose car broke down when he and Mary were on the way South.

Before leaving Monksilver I had handed over culinary duties to Jackie Puttock, Margaret Oddy, Mark and Eileen Kelly and Jim Oddy (recovering from a viral infection) and Trevor Blake had taken over at the check-in desk. Many thanks to Trevor for seeing to closing down the checkpoint and bringing a load of Kent Group gear back to Bank House.

The report and results came in this morning's post, so here are the statistics for Kent Group members:-

Time	Names
32.44	Merv Nutburn
37.02	Don Newman
37.02	Neal O'Rourke
37.02	Jan O'Rourke
43.58	Keith Warman
43.58	Mike Pursey
47.11	Kevin Puttock
47.44	Roger Munn
47.59	Gordon Harker, who ran downhill to the finish.

*I am delighted to be able to report that Andrew took part in the High Weald Walk and finished in a very good time.

Tom Sinclair.

CHILTERN LANDMARKS HUNDRED – 28th – 30th May 2005

Trevor has heard from Lynn Yorston that the Kent Group has been allocated CP6 (Russells Water – GR SU 708 898) for this event in 2005. It is in a small village hall at 39.75 miles and there is limited parking. Opening times are Saturday 1800 hrs to Sunday 0600 hrs. The menu provisionally consists of hot dogs and potato wedges. Volunteers will be needed for this Whitsun event. Please submit your names to Neil Higham during Trevor's absence.

Volunteers are also required for check-pointing on the Marshals' walk which will take place over the weekend of the 30th April – 2nd May 2005.

Future Hundreds are: Chiltern Landmarks in 2005, Northumberland in 2006 and *Cant Canolbarth* by Mid Wales and Marches in 2007.

NORTHERN UPDATEfrom Paul & Mary Hatcher

By the time you are reading this it will be over six months since we got in our car after the group AGM and drove north to our new home in Brampton. Although strange at first, it now really feels like home. We spent the first two months decorating and although not yet completed we have taken a break. We have acquired an allotment which we have now cleared of rubbish and planted up, (radish and rocket already cropped, potatoes soon). The vouchers that we were presented with went towards a greenhouse, which has been erected and planted up and then there has been the flower garden and the mowing.

Mary has a part time job at Tesco (24 hours a week on the Fish counter), I also have an evening job, working 15 hours a week at the local Co-op in Brampton. So at least we are now able to get into some sort of routine.

We both missed not getting down to the Exmoor 100. Congratulations to all who finished and commiserations to all that were unable to complete the whole route, hope that I will be joining you all in the Chilterns next year. We were especially pleased to hear that Gordon H. and Roger M. finished at their first attempt. WELL DONE.

We try to get out and explore the local footpaths every Sunday and are now beginning to find some interesting routes. I also try to go out with the local group (Brampton Fell Walkers) each Wednesday. They hire the community mini bus (£3 each). So far our walks have taken us twice into the (midgey-ridden) Scottish borders, 1st Loch Ken Red Kite Centre, 2nd Note O' the Gate and the Kielder Stone. Those in the Lakes have taken us to (a) Buttermere, Crag Hill and Whitless Pike, (b) Bassenthwaite, Barkenside and Skiddaw, (c) Grasmere, Easedale and Sergeant Man. Other days we have been over to Alston and Cow Green Reservoir. But no matter where we go, the return trip is always punctuated by "a loo stop", these can only be taken at one of the local hostelrys that serve "Real Ale (reminds me of the Kent group walks and the need to find a lunch stop that serves Cider). As yet I have not managed to get on any local LDWA Social or Challenge walks, Shame on me!

Being LDWA Local Groups Secretary does keep me in touch with what other groups are up to and if it were not for Eva Bowes taking on the groups programme side of the job, I would find it difficult to keep on top of it. Regular contact with Tom S., Kevin and Keith does help to keep us in touch with Kent group antics and we look forward to this Newsletter to find out more. WHEN we finally get dragged into the 21st century and get e-mail, etc, maybe all this will become easier!!.

To all, we hope that you have a good walking summer and if you are this way at any time please look us up.

Paul & Mary.

OBITUARY - LORD SACKVILLE

Lionel Bertrand Sackville-West, sixth Baron Sackville died 27th March 2004 aged 90. The Sackville family have lived in Knole House since 1566. Lord Sackville was a good friend of the Kent Group willingly giving permission for the Sevenoaks Circular to start from the ornate private gates into Knole Park. In his dealings with the Kent Group he always extended the same gentle courtesy to us as he did to visitors who came to admire the house. He took a great interest in the park and house and in 1987 after the Great Storm virtually destroyed the trees in the park and gardens, at the age of 74, he immediately began to supervise the mammoth task of clearing and replanting. Eventually more than 250,000 trees were planted most of them by his own hands! He was very appreciative of Kent Group's donation towards the replanting costs and as he said in his letter of thanks, the estate had to bear the cost contrary to popular belief that the National Trust would pay. In 1998 he won second prize in a forestry competition for

his post storm plantations (the Queen was third!). Lord Sackville was often to be seen in the park working with "his" trees, with a cord of a robe from his days in Shanghai holding his old buttonless city jacket closed. He was a very nice man with a good sense of humour who drove an old and battered car and seemed to have no idea what the gearbox was designed for. One of his other prevailing interests was the library at Knole where he took good care of the arrangement and preservation of the books. Music too, was a passion of his and led him to restore the chapel and the 1604 organ there. As a captain in the Coldstream Guards he was taken prisoner of war at Singapore in 1942. Lord Sackville fathered five girls and no son so he is succeeded by his nephew Robert Sackville-West.

(The source for some of the above was The Independent of 29th March 2004.)

Bryan Clarke.

KENT WALKING FESTIVAL 2004

Some of the finest Kent landscapes, ranging from the dramatic White Cliffs coastline to the North Downs will be showcased in this year's Kent Walking Festival.

The Festival runs from 4th to 12th September. There will be over 45 walks to choose from to cater for all ages, abilities and interests. The walks vary from 1 to 27 miles and the Festival will operate from two centres which will provide meeting points, as well as refreshments and details of all the walks taking place each day.

The University of Kent at Canterbury will play host from 4th – 8th September and The Friars at Aylesford from 9th – 12 September. Contact Kent Walking Festival, Environment & Economy, 2nd Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Telephone: 01622 696403. Email: walkingfestival@kent.gov.uk. Website: www.kentwalkingfestival.co.uk

COMPASS BEARINGS MAY CHANGE DURING A CHALLENGE WALK!

Earth may be headed for one of its periodic polar flips. Scientists reported at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco that Earth's magnetic field has been fading since the mid-19th century. A 10 percent weakening in the planet's magnetism over the last 150 years has reduced the field's protective effect against cosmic radiation and damaged satellites in low orbit. Earth's previous field flips appear to have had few effects on life. The last flip occurred about a million years ago. The flip could cause short-term damage to the ozone layer, but should not present a serious threat to Earth's inhabitants. Scientists caution that long-term changes, including lulls, in the strength of the magnetic shield are normal and that it may yet return to full force. The researchers expect the field to disappear almost completely within the next 1,500 years before it re-emerges in the opposite direction.

WEST KENT PROW TEAM – Jonathan Bibby has replaced Neil Barnes as Rights of Way Officer for Tunbridge Wells parishes at the West Kent Office. See previous issue for full details of all KCC Public Rights of Way Teams.

Shirley Higgins.

NATIONAL AGM 2005 - Next year's National AGM will be held one week later than usual, i.e. the 18th – 20th March. The venue will be in the Mendips.

Thoughts Inspired by the Bullock Smithy: -

by A.N. Other.

Do you like to take a walk?
Stroll along and have a talk?
A mile or two, then have a rest? Then
Let me tell what's the best...

If you want some proper thrills,
GET YER BACKSIDES UP THEM 'ILLS.

Canal side walks are nice and flat
Ducks, swans, boats and this and that,
Path and track and country lane,
Wandering around the Cheshire Plain.

If you want some proper thrills,
GET YER BACKSIDES UP THEM 'ILLS.

You can stroll for a couple of hours,
Looking at the pretty flowers,
Forest trails are known to please,
(All those endless rows of trees), but

If you want some proper thrills,
GET YER BACKSIDES UP THEM 'ILLS.

Tinkling brooks and meadows green,
Create a lovely rural scene,
Rabbits, lambs and cattle too,
But if you really want a VIEW, then

Why not have some proper thrills?
GET YER BACKSIDES UP THEM 'ILLS.

Shining Tor and Shutlingsloe,
Names that make you want to go,
Kinder, Win Hill, Edale Cross,
Jacob's Ladder, Featherbed Moss,

They're the names to give you thrills,
GET YER BACKSIDES UP THEM 'ILLS.

You'll puff and pant, your legs complain,
You'll think "I won't do this again", but
Never mind the aches and bruises,
Think of the fantastic views(es), **

So, why not have some proper thrills?
GET YER BACKSIDES UP THEM 'ILLS.

**Well, it has to RHYME!

GOD HELP US

Three male L.D.W.A. members on a challenge walk came to a swollen river that they had to cross. It seemed impossible, so they decided to pray.

The first asked to be given the strength to get across. He was given super-human strength and with great effort, managed to swim over to the other side.

The second prayed for the right tools to get over. He was given a boat and after much paddling, he also managed to cross the river.

The third prayed for sufficient intelligence to be able to cross.

So God made him into a woman. She looked at the map, walked 100 yards up the river bank and crossed using the bridge.

Complaints to Ivan Waghorn please!

Bill Gillibrand has sent in this idea which he came across in the Surrey newsletter. The leader of a social walk should ask for a volunteer at the start to report on the walk for the newsletter editor's benefit. It would help the writer if the leader were to give him a brief résumé of the route with the names of villages and points of interest along the route.

What a good idea! Who will give it a try? Editor.

KENT WILDLIFE TRUST – members may be aware that the Kent Group belongs to the Kent Wildlife Trust and as such it receives copies of their Newsletters together with details of study days and other events.

If a member would like to read any of the above publications, please advise Keith Warman on [REDACTED] and he will send them in the post. All that he asks is that you invest in a postage stamp and either return them to him or pass them on to another member if requested to do so.

Local Groups Representatives Meeting - The Kent Group committee are appealing for a volunteer to represent Kent at the meeting to be held at Nottingham University on 24 October. The meeting will start at 9.00am and be the normal meeting in the morning. Free buffet lunch. Presentation in the afternoon about membership and the internet. Finish about 4.00pm. Travelling expenses will be reimbursed. Will someone please come forward to represent us at this meeting? Paul Hatcher has done this job for several years but he feels that he is unable to represent us now that he has moved north.

The Northumbria Group is promoting the *new Durham Dales Challenge* on Saturday 11th September 2004.

There will be three separate circular routes of 16, 28 & 50 miles all starting from Wolsingham in Upper Weardale. Time limit for 16 & 28 miles is 12 hours, and 24 hours for 50 miles.

Details and entry form from the Event Secretary – Philip Powell, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dates for Your Diary! - from Tom Sinclair

20th March.....Sevenoaks Circular
18th to 20th March...National AGM in the Mendips
18th to 20th March...Outdoors Show, Birmingham

Short of hiring a helicopter, it seems impossible for anyone to take in all three but one could contemplate something like the following timetable:-

Thursday 17th - Drive to Birmingham and help set up stall. B&B overnight.
Friday 18th - Help on LDWA stall then drive to Mendips Hotel.
Saturday 19th - Go on walk and enjoy dinner and barn dance.
Sunday 20th - AGM in morning, drive back in time to help clearing up after the Sevenoaks Circular.

Tom is looking for a chauffeur!