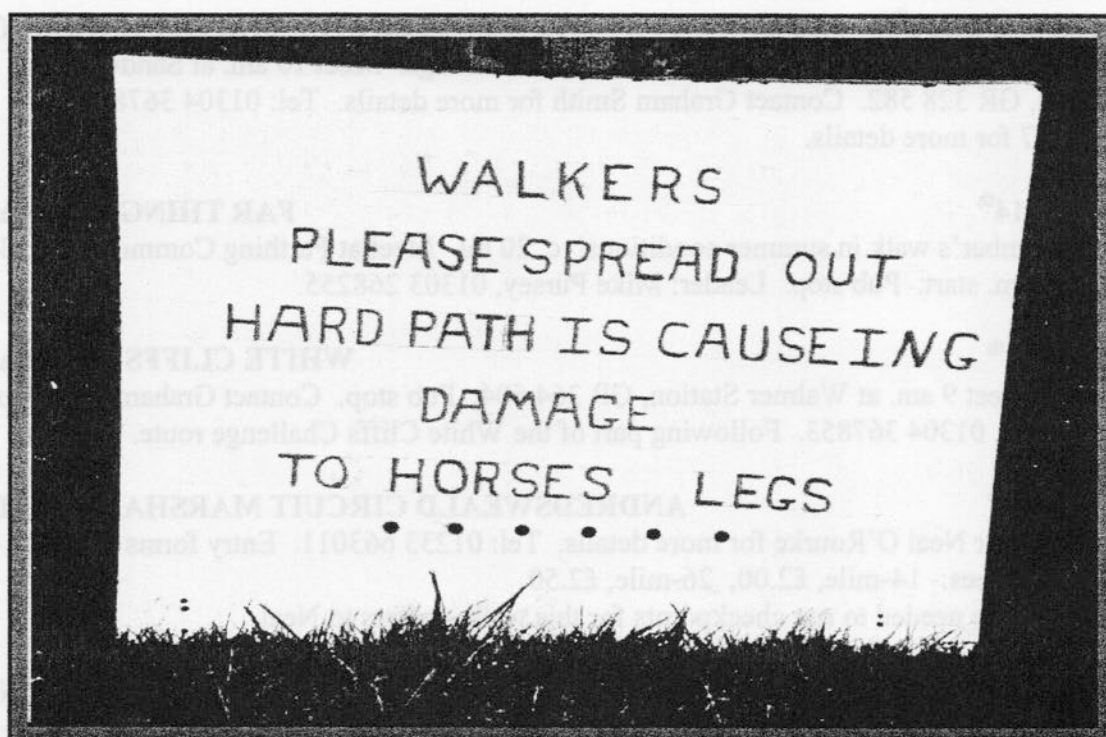


LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION — KENT GROUP

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

NEWSLETTER



Sign seen on Watership Down



Number 69

April 2006

LDWA KENT GROUP PROGRAMME - APRIL TO AUGUST 2006

Sun Apr 9th

GREENSAND WAY 6

c. 18 ml. Brockham to Shamley Green. Linear walk. Pub stop. Meet 9 am. Contact Graham Smith for details. Tel: [REDACTED].

Fri Apr 14th (Good Friday)

A SOUTH DOWNS WAY LOOP

c. 26 ml. Meet at Eastbourne, western end of promenade (B2103) by South Downs Way marker post, GR 600 972. Park near school on left. Leader: Graham Smith, [REDACTED]

Sun Apr 16th

GREENSAND WAY 7

Final section. c. 18 ml. Shamley Green to Haslemere. Linear walk. Pub stop. Meet 9 am. Contact Graham Smith, [REDACTED]

Sat/Sun Apr 29/30th

CINQUE PORTS CHALLENGE

c. 60 ml. An unsupported walk from Sandwich to Hastings. Meet 10 am. at Sandwich Guildhall, GR 328 582. Contact Graham Smith for more details. Tel: [REDACTED]
See page 7 for more details.

Sun May 14th

FAR THING IN MAY

Last November's walk in summer conditions! c. 20 ml. Meet at Farthing Common, GR 136 404 for 9 am. start. Pub stop. Leader: Mike Pursey, [REDACTED]

Sun Jun 11th

WHITE CLIFFS 26 (social!)

c. 26 ml. Meet 9 am. at Walmer Station, GR 364 504. Pub stop. Contact Graham Smith for more details, [REDACTED] Following part of the White Cliffs Challenge route.

Sun Jun 18th

ANDREDSWEALD CIRCUIT MARSHALS' WALK

Contact Jan or Neal O'Rourke for more details. Tel: [REDACTED] Entry forms from Jan O'Rourke. Fees:- 14-mile, £2.00, 26-mile, £2.50.

Volunteers are needed to run checkpoints for this walk – offers to Neal.

Sun Jun 25th

RECVLVER ROUND

c. 24 ml. Meet at Reculver public car park, GR 225 694 (map L/R 179) for 8.30 start. Pub stop. Leader: Gordon Harker. Tel: [REDACTED]

Sun Jul 9th

ANDREDSWEALD CIRCUIT – MAIN EVENT

See Events Diary in Strider. Volunteers are required to help to run this Group event. Contact Neal O'Rourke ([REDACTED]) with your offers of help.

Sun Jul 16th

VISIT TO EAST SUSSEX

c. 18 ml. Meet 9 am. at car park in Marley Lane, east of Battle, GR 766 163. Pub stop. Leader: Ernie Bishop, [REDACTED]

Sat Jul 22nd

BOULOGNE TO CALAIS

c. 31 ml. Meet at Dover Eastern Docks at 7 am. to catch ferry to Calais, then train to Boulogne. Walk back to Calais to catch approx. 11 pm. ferry to Dover. Possible arrangements for using car(s) for crossing are being discussed. For latest details contact Graham Smith, [REDACTED]

Sun Jul 30th

FORDWICH FORAGE

c. 22 ml. Meet 8.30 am. at car park by pub, GR 179 598 (map L/R 179). Pub stop. Leader: Gordon Harker. Tel: [REDACTED]

Sat/Sun 12/13th Aug

WHITE CLIFFS FIFTY Marshals' Walk

Contact Gordon Harker [REDACTED] for further details. Volunteers are needed to help with support for this walk. Offers of help to Gordon please.

Advance notice – The WHITE CLIFFS CHALLENGE 50 Main Event will be on Sat/Sun 16/17th September. We hope to repeat the success of last year's event but to do so, the Group will need plenty of willing volunteers to run the Start/Finish venue and the 7 checkpoints.

For this reason, Kent Group members who wish to do this walk should enter the Marshals' Walk in August. The Group will need all available help on the day in order to run the Main Event efficiently. Please contact Mike Pursey ([REDACTED]) with your offer to help.

PUB MEETINGS are 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 **8.30 p.m.** All welcome.

PLEASE NOTE:- The **May meeting** is postponed to **Monday 15th**, when a **free Buffet Supper** will be provided. If planning to come, please 'phone Tom on [REDACTED] at least a week before to help the catering calculations.

THE COVER PICTURE is one of a number of photographs that I have collected of strange or unusual footpath signs. I saw this one at a point where a footpath crosses training gallops on Watership Down, (from the book and film of the same name!) Hampshire. I would like to receive any photographs that you may have of similar subjects for use in future issues.

Laurie Lowe.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS - The following were elected at the AGM held at Ryarsh in January:-

Chairman.....Brian Buttifant..

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

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

Members.....Duncan Brice.....

Joy Davies.....

Gordon Harker...

Mike Pursey.....

Graham Smith...

Footpath Problems.....Shirley

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

ANNUAL FAMILY WALK AND LUNCH - held on Sunday 4th December 2005

Twenty-seven members and friends enjoyed a good meal at The Kings Arms, Meopham Green. The walk beforehand, led by Ivan Waghorn, was also enjoyable, the dry weather being just right for a walk to bring on an appetite. The afternoon soon passed with a great deal of talking going on at the long L-shaped table. People were very generous in donating a good number of prizes and this year a new idea of giving everyone one ticket ensured that the process passed off very smoothly. The exception to the donated prizes was a large Christmas cake that was bought for the occasion as the First Prize and this was won by Sara Smith. The other prizes were chosen by the winners as they came to collect them. Brian Buttifant, our Chairperson, gave a short speech as we downed our coffees and spoke of the very successful White Cliffs 50, thanking Gordon Harker, Graham Smith and Mike Pursey who, with others, organised an event that had a good number of entrants and had received many accolades in letters, e-mails, etc. from those who took part. A special Thank-You was extended to Pauline Barnett who handled the job of Entries Secretary so well. Brian was able to confirm that the previous day the event had been booked for 16th/17th September 2006 and he hoped that there would be good support from the Kent Group for running the event. The afternoon ended around 4.30 with the Season's Greetings being exchanged as the gathering dispersed.

RYE-HASTINGS

Sunday January 1st 22 miles

TEN LDWA members, six from Kent and four from Surrey, assembled at Rye Station at 9am. New Year's Day for the Rye-Hastings 22-miler – and what an excellent start to 2006 it proved to be. Graham Smith was the only one with a hangover (or the only one admitting to it!) and his excesses of the night before meant he had to restrict himself to orange juice or tomato juice with Worcester sauce and Tabasco – a tried and tested hangover cure - at the two excellent pubs visited en route, instead of the best Sussex bitter he would normally have been downing. But that was his problem.

When the ten set off the weather was a bit overcast and a little cold, but still pretty good for the time of year. From the station, the route went out of Rye to a canal, which was followed past Camber Castle to Sea Road near Winchelsea Beach. The road was then followed to the sea wall, which was taken to Cliff End. Then it was up onto the cliffs and down to Fairlight Cove, before another climb to the fine viewpoint at the old coastguard station on the outskirts of Hastings Country Park. After that, it was the country park glens. There are three of them and they are steep, although the exertion in going up them did help ease Graham's hangover! But the paths on top of the glens were excellent. The last of the three glen climbs led the party onto the huge greensward that overlooks Hastings, then it was down steps to the lunch stop, the Hastings Arms in the pedestrian precinct near the seafront.

After a good stop it was up the same steps to the greensward again, then Barley Lane to Fairlight. Leader Mike Pursey had studied the route beforehand and felt the best way to the next objective of Pett was via the 1066 trail, and that proved to be inspired thinking. The 1066 trail provided open walking on good paths offering fine views. There was a quick stop at the second pub visited en route – the Royal Oak at Pett – before paths and lanes, mainly keeping to the 1066 route, to Winchelsea.

By now it was gone 4pm. and darkness was fast encroaching, and it was not considered wise to take the paths by the dykes back to Rye, which would have been the route in daylight, as a false step may well have led to a wet start to 2006. Instead, the ten followed a lane past

Winchelsea Station and then a cycle path to Rye. Although it was now dark, the route ahead was clear and the lights of the town ahead were getting brighter with every step.

The group reached Rye Station shortly after 5pm, having had a very good day's walk. Full credit to Mike for planning it.

Now what can we do for the 2007 New Year's Day walk? Ideas please.....Graham Smith.

WINTER NIGHT WALK

Friday January 6th 20 miles.

At 10.45 pm. twelve men and a Columbian lady left Wrotham for a walk through the night. I thought "It's a long way to travel from Columbia" as we headed west on the NDW, "Does her family know she is spending the night with twelve "fit" men?" Soon leaving the NDW, we travelled through old orchards, now plastic-covered strawberry fields, to reach our first stop, the bus shelter in Ightham. After a brief stop, the path took us up through real orchards (sorry, no apples left – Brian B and I had picked the leftovers in October).

Soon we passed near Plaxtol to our main stop, a lane junction at Old Soar Manor. Now refreshed, we climbed up to join the Wealdway near Gover Hill. After leaving our main stop we passed the burning embers of a fire left by the tree fellers. Surrounded by suitable logs to sit on, we could have had a camp fire and sang "Ging Gang Goully" and other scout songs.

We hit the WW at last along a very muddy track. Staying on the WW for about 3 miles brought us to our next bus shelter stop on the A20 at Wrotham Heath – sorry, no buses at 4.30 a.m.! Ahead now with the WW to meet the PW and NDW near Trosley Country Park. It was now snowing heavily, so a decision was made to take the shortest way back to Wrotham, arriving there at 6.30 a.m.

Well, we didn't lose anybody or have any injuries this year. It's not often you can take in three long distance trails in one night, WW, PW and NDW. All had a good time. See you next year!

Ivan Waghorn.

The GREENSAND WAY – part 2

Sunday February 5th 15 miles

This was just one stage of Graham's multistage traverse of the Greensand Way from east to west.

Some people consider that the GSW runs out at Folkestone, so the first stage had been an 18-mile stretch from the coast to the official starting point at Ham Street. For this second and shortest stage (which was my reason for being present), we assembled at Pluckley and drove in convoy to Ham Street Station. We were 13 in total.

The day was dry, dull and cool. Within a few yards of setting off, we encountered a blocked footpath. It was an official closure done in order to carry out bridge repairs. Local knowledge found an alternative route (eventually!) and we were soon back on the official route. Progress was good throughout the morning and it did not seem long before we were at The Swan at Great Chart. Here we were met by Neal who had arrived by bike and made a reservation for us in advance. We commented on the good value of the meals served – plenty

of food at very reasonable prices. We speculated on how the quantity might decrease and the price increase as future stages progressed into deepest Surrey.

In the afternoon, we followed the trail through Little Chart, following the GSW markers to that familiar section through the well-maintained orchards that identify the approach to Pluckley. This area is well known to those devotees of Paul Hatcher's "Cream Tea Walks". It seemed strange not to have Paul and Mary with us, and the church was somehow desolate without the ladies of the village dispensing refreshing cups of tea and home-made cakes as has happened so often in the past.

Laurie Lowe.

CONSTITUTION

Bill Gillibrand

Last year, on 21st February 2005 to be precise, there was to be a meeting of your committee in Kemsing Church Hall. Due to the snowy conditions in the Kentish outback, only those reasonably nearby were able to attend – namely Brian Buttifant, Bryan Clarke and Bill Gillibrand. One of the items on the agenda was approval of the minutes of the AGM, which were due to be issued with the April Newsletter. As only three members of a nine strong committee were present, the question arose as to whether they constituted a quorum with authority to give such approval. In the event, the decision was postponed to the next meeting.

However, the matter had raised a question that could only be resolved by reference to the Group's Constitution. Constitution! – What Constitution? A search was initiated through the Group archives and a written Constitution entitled 'First Issue – January 1985' eventually came to light. Our joy at such a discovery was short-lived as Keith Warman had a recollection of there being a later revision due to the change of the Association to a limited company status and he undertook to do some research. True to his word, Keith some time later produced a Constitution dated 14th March 1999. This had obviously been produced after lengthy consideration at the 1999 AGM.

That Constitution of 14th March 1999 is now generally available. Some minor anomalies have been corrected but no changes made to the substance. To identify it, the note 'updated January 2006' has been added. If you would like a copy let Bill Gillibrand know and he will send it to you, either by post or email.

In case you are wondering, a quorum for the committee requires at least 50% of its members to be present.

Items from the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 16th February 2006:-

MINUTES OF AGM: The minutes of the AGM were approved as being a true record subject to some corrections. These were noted by Bryan who will amend the draft and print it out for circulation.

An email had been received from Paul Hatcher giving the date of the Local Groups Meeting in Nottingham as 24th September. **The Group is still looking for a representative to attend these meetings.** Travelling costs will be reimbursed.

Tom had written to the Sussex Group suggesting a possible joint effort with Kent to run a Hundred. No reply had yet been received and the opinion of the Committee was that 2009 would be too soon for us.

Membership of the Group stood at 96 but 33 subscriptions for this year were still unpaid. Notifications were now being received of new members in the Association but there were some anomalies that the Secretary would try to sort out in due course.

The current account stood at £1202-66 and the deposit account at £2260-80.

Neil had not been able to complete the accounts for the past year due to illness and pressure of work but they would be available soon. At the AGM, although we had made various donations, Neil had omitted to mention the £100 and £110 received from the Exmoor and Chilterns Hundreds respectively as a result of our marshalling efforts.

SEVENOAKS CIRCULAR: Brian reported that 68 entries had been received so far. Following from the list of available marshals, he itemised the personnel that he was considering for various checkpoints.

Due to the problems that had occurred with regard to Raleys, it was apparent that we would have to find a different venue for headquarters next year. He was considering various options.

HIGH WEALD WALK: Neal O'Rourke had reported to Brian by telephone. Keith Warman is preparing the route description for the 14-mile option. Booking of checkpoints is in hand and the entry forms are available. Bill is to send Neal a list of those who have indicated willingness to marshal. The Marshals' walk will be on 18th June.

WHITE CLIFFS FIFTY: Gordon reported that some time before the AGM there had been a sub-committee meeting. Those involved were Liz Keeler, Joy Davies, Graham Smith, Mike Pursey and himself. A further meeting is planned.

The halls have been booked and the route sorted. The marshals' walk is on 12/13th August and will start from Shepherds Well (8 am. and 10 am.) The hall has been booked for 24 hours. It was decided that the new badges should state 'White Cliffs Challenge' so as to be suitable for both distances. Bill is to notify Keith Warman.

Keith had made detailed comments on the proposed entry form. Bryan is to prepare a proof for the next sub-committee meeting. The proposed entry fees were agreed.

The 50 and 26 mile routes will overlap but Gordon said there would be a need for an extra checkpoint on the shorter one. An open spot has been found but Brian advised a check with the parish clerk for approval to its use.

Due to parking restrictions, it was agreed that the total entry be limited to 200. Gordon thought the situation could be improved by having a marshal to control the parking and he is to check if extra space could be made available by using the field.

Other matters: Several members had written to Kent County Council challenging the Green Lanes Association and its attempts to have all RUPPs reclassified as BOATs. It was desirable that all motor vehicles be excluded from Byways. See page 10 et seq. for more details.

Shirley had reported that KCC had produced a policy document regarding footpaths and given priority to those serving churches or schools and designated long distance paths. She was concerned that other footpaths could suffer as a result. There was to be a meeting with the Council of those with an interest in footpaths and the matter would be brought up then.

FUTURE HUNDREDS: Unfortunately, there would only be a limited representation from Kent for marshalling on the Northumberland 100 this year. Bill had received details of the checkpoints for the Mid-Wales 100 to be held in 2007. Kent Group has been allocated CP6 – Llangunllo, grid reference SO 213 712, at 40 miles. This is a well-appointed village hall.

The Committee would like to know how many members are interested in obtaining garments e.g. **T-shirts, polo-shirts, or sweat-shirts, displaying the new group logo.** The logo is a representation of the Kent Invicta horse (see image on front cover). Please contact Bill Gillibrand [REDACTED] to show your interest.

CINQUE PORTS CHALLENGE

The unofficial Cinque Ports Challenge walk will be on the bank holiday weekend of Saturday April 29th and Sunday April 30th. The 60-mile walk will start from Sandwich Guildhall at 10am. (see the Group Walks Programme), and will take in all the Cinque Ports of Sandwich, Dover, Hythe, New Romney and Hastings. Some fairly basic back-up is being planned at Dover and Lydd, and there will be an evening meal stop at a pub in Hythe – other than that, anyone planning to take part should come fully prepared in terms of clothing, food and drink for a 60-mile walk going through the night.

Anyone wishing to take part in the walk, or assist in back-up, is asked to contact Graham Smith on [REDACTED]

LOCAL GROUPS NEWS

Extracts from a letter received by Bill Gillibrand from Paul Hatcher:-

“On membership issues, it is fair to say that we are still not on top of things. Delays in new members getting their packs/goods, non-receipt of ‘Strider’ to existing members, non-receipt of spare copies to group secretaries, cheques getting lost/mislaid/paid in late, to say nothing of the Direct Debit fiasco, and others that I am sure you can quote. I’m not making excuses, it has been a concern to us all. On the other hand, it is totally unfair to lay all the blame at Garfield’s door (as some are). He has had an intolerable workload for one person to deal with and as a Committee, maybe we should have done something about it sooner. We are now taking steps to put this right.”

Paul also mentions a leaflet that is to be handed out from the LDWA stand at the Outdoor Show for publicity purposes. Its title is “Walking Long Distance Footpaths with the Long Distance Walkers Association”. The leaflet offers help and advice to members of the public who may wish to tackle an LDP for the first time. It points out that the LDWA can help in three ways:-

Information about LDPs.

Walking an LDP with one of our local groups.

Improving fitness and stamina by joining a local group on their regular social walks.

Copies are available on request from Bill Gillibrand.

STRIDERS AND GROUP NEWSLETTERS

Ernie Bishop

Some time ago I suggested to Laurie that I supply him with a regular article to put in the Kent Group Newsletter, summarising some of the interesting or amusing items which have appeared in Strider or the Newsletter, as they have occurred over the years. That was at least a year ago and Laurie probably gave up all hope, but I have finally made an effort.

I've been fortunate in that the first L.D.W.A. Newsletter I received was Number 15, but I was given copies of 1&2 and soon after was able to obtain Numbers 3-14 from someone who was retiring from walking.

The first Kent Group Newsletter came out in February 1983, and it has been published three times a year ever since.

To return to the L.D.W.A. Newsletter, the first eleven editions were of foolscap size, then a change to the existing style. It was still called "Newsletter", but this was altered to "Strider" at issue No.19 (November 1977). Since then Strider has gradually become much more professional in its appearance and articles.

However, those who have joined the L.D.W.A. recently, probably have little knowledge of the Association, how it was formed and how it has progressed in the last 34 years, so let's go back to the beginning. Chris Steer was a keen walker, particularly on the hills. Whilst walking one day in Surrey, he saw a card in the window of the local store at Peaslake, which requested that anyone interested in forming a walking group should contact the writer. The writer was Alan Blatchford and on meeting, Chris realised that Alan was determined to form a group of those who were prepared to join and participate in events, of varying distances, where the aim was to finish within a time limit. In setting up the Association a great deal of time was used in going through local papers, sporting magazines etc., making contact with other known keen walkers and cross-country runners, or walking groups etc. and listing all the keen walkers they could find.

There were already some similar events being held in different parts of the country, but they were mainly organised and advertised within a limited area. The L.D.W.A. Newsletter, once it was organised, was very willing to advertise other events because the target was to form a countrywide Association, not just a walking group based on Guildford.

To go back a little, Alan and Chris lived a very short distance from one another, and were able to meet frequently and plan the strategy. Their wives, Barbara and Margaret, were great helpers and by the end of the year, Newsletter No.1 was ready for distribution. Two or three hundred copies were printed and each one sent out together with a membership application form. The initial distribution was exceeded and there had to be a reprint of the Newsletter and application forms. Alan and Chris set about organising a committee and getting information about walking events all over the country. Newsletter No.2 had 33 events advertised.

By the time the second Newsletter was issued, Alan brought into the open the suggestion that the association should organise a walk in the South to compare with the Fellsman or the North Yorks Moors Crosses. By the 3rd. Newsletter the Downsman Hundred was agreed to be held, at the Spring Bank Holiday in 1973 from Winchester to Eastbourne. Since then the annual L.D.W.A.100 has been regarded as one of, if not the prime challenge event in the U.K.

To return to Newsletter No.2, Alan, in the Editorial, encouraged members to study the maps of their area and work out interesting routes for future use.

Reading Newsletter No.2, it is surprising how many events had been held for a few years and are still going strong now; The Fellsman, Tanners Marathon, Lake District Four Three Thousands and The Chiltern Marathon. It is quite interesting that some events such as The Fellsman and The Lake District Four Three Thousand have stuck to the same routes each year, apart from a few minor alterations, whereas the other two events have constantly changed routes to maintain interest.

As well as a longer calendar of events, the 2nd. Newsletter included some snippets of walking news from members and a list of information and comments about old and new books concerning walking. Finally, there was a three-page article by Keith Pennyfather (L.D.W.A.96) about long distance walking and the various types of walking events. Quite interesting, but it omitted any mention of the Centurions who organise a 100-mile road race each year under race walking rules. Their rules on race walking are rather complicated. "At each step the advancing foot of the walker must make contact with the ground before the rear foot leaves the ground. During the period of each step in which a foot is on the ground the supporting leg must be straightened in the vertical position for at least one moment" Judges are on the course and will disqualify anyone breaking the rules. I mention this because a number of active L.D.W.A. members, although retaining their L.D.W.A. membership, have participated in some race walking with the Centurions for some years.

Finally, out of the first two hundred members enrolled in the first five months, only five were recruited from Kent. Andrew Melling (No85), who still appears in Kent challenge walks, Peter Rickards (176) who unfortunately died 5 years ago. Peter will feature quite a lot in the coming newsletters, Len Wilson (147) was an active member, but moved to a different part of the country. The other two members, Geoff. Dumper and Brian Chesterton, had both left before I joined.

(To be continued in Newsletter 70)

WEBSITES

To find the **Kent Group** website, use this address:-

www.ldwa.org.uk/kent

<http://www.lostkit.co.uk>

A new website has been launched with the aim of helping people in sports and leisure activities find their lost property; the website is www.lostkit.co.uk.

Report any property you've lost at any event, race or meeting across the UK and we'll try to track it down, or if you've found something, report it and we'll hopefully find the owner.

Please inform your club members, advertise, and use the service - it's free!!

A group of ancient Long Distance Walkers was sitting around after a walk discussing their ailments.

'My arms are so weak now I can hardly lift a cup of coffee', said one.

'My cataracts are so bad now I can no longer see the scenery', said another.

'I can't turn my head because of arthritis', another added.

'My blood pressure pills make me dizzy', continued the fourth walker.

'I guess that's the price we pay for getting old', said another.

'Well I guess it's not all bad', said one person cheerfully, 'Thank

Goodness we can all still drive'.

Bryan

THE IMPORTANCE OF WALKING:-

Walking can add minutes to your life. This enables you at 90 years old to spend an additional five months in a nursing home at £3000 per month.

My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. Now she's 97 years old and we don't know where on earth she is.

I joined a health club last year, spent £400. Haven't lost an ounce. Apparently, you have to go there.

I have to exercise early in the morning before my brain realises what I'm doing.

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

I have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them.

The advantage of exercising every day is that you die healthier.

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

And last but not least: - I don't exercise because it makes the ice jump right out of my glass.

Beware of RUPPs being turned into BOATs

Brian Buttifant

A possible problem for local walkers first arose last November when a notice appeared on MR231 (a Road Used as a Public Path) in the parish of Wrotham. It was erected on behalf of the Green Lanes Association, requesting the landowner and Kent County Council to make this path into a Byway Open to All Traffic. It is defined on the Ordnance Survey map as a byway. Herein lays a confusion that is not apparent to the user.

I contacted the Council by letter listing my objections to the proposal and below are relevant points from the reply that I received:-

"The route you are referring to is recorded as a Road used as a Public path (RUPP) on the definitive Map of Public Rights of Way. Where the Definitive Map shows a RUPP, it is conclusive evidence that there was, at the relevant date, a highway shown on the map and that the public had thereover at that date a right of way on foot and a right of way on horseback or leading a horse. This is without prejudice to any greater rights.

The status RUPP has been a source of some confusion ever since it was first recorded on the Definitive map and, there are very few members of the public who actually know what rights they have over such routes.

Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 all RUPPs are to be reclassified to Restricted Byways but as yet, no date has been fixed for this reclassification to take place.

The definition of a Restricted Byway is to be found under Section 48 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and it is:-

- (a) A right of way on foot*
- (b) A right of way on horseback or leading a horse*
- (c) A right of way for vehicles other than mechanically propelled vehicles; and "restricted Byway" means a highway over which the public have restricted byway rights, with or without a right to drive animals of any description along the highway, but no other rights of way.*

Government is currently generating primary legislation to close the Definitive Map for claims for motorised vehicular rights of way. As a result of this User Groups are submitting applications to reclassify RUPPs to Byways Open to All Traffic before this closure takes effect.

When determining a claim the County is unable to take safety, suitability or amenity into consideration. The County Council must only concern itself with whether the rights are reasonably alleged to subsist or not.

If after the investigation there is sufficient evidence the County Council will make an Order to record the routes at Byway status on the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way. The order must be advertised with six weeks opportunity for objection. It is during this time that you would need to make a formal objection. If there are objections, the Order and objections must be dispatched the Planning Inspectorate for determination by an Inspector for the Secretary of State probably by way of a Public Inquiry. If the Inspector confirms the Order, the route is recorded on the Definitive Map.

If however the County Council considers there is insufficient evidence to make an Order the applicant may appeal to the Government Office for the North East and that office may either agree with the County Council or direct the County Council to make an Order.

Unfortunately, due to the large number of claims the Highway Authority has received, which are all time consuming and complex to resolve, it will be some while before investigation will commence on the claim."

To conclude, if there is a similar problem in your area of the county, I would urge you to write to: Senior PROW Officer – Definition at KCC, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone. ME14 1XX.

Bryan Buttifant.

On the same subject, here is a piece written by Tom Sinclair, dealing specifically with MR231 at Wrotham:-

RUPPS & BOATS – MR231 Wrotham Parish

Many Kent Group members will, perhaps unwittingly, have walked past MR231 where it joins the North Downs Way/Pilgrims' Way just west of Wrotham. It was at that junction that both Brian Buttifant and Tom and Jenny Sinclair, spotted a notice posted by the Green Lanes Association applying for this RUPP to be reclassified as a BOAT. Both parties were prompted to write, independently, to the Kent County Council and to encourage others to make their protests as well. A précis of my letter follows:-

"I am writing to express the strongest possible opposition to the application by the Green Lanes Association to change the designation of MR231 from Road Used As Public

that time this narrow path between hedges has been used primarily as a footpath and a bridleway. It is a recreational asset for the village.

To allow motor-cycles and, worse still, 4WD vehicles to use this Bridleway/Footpath would be detrimental to the environment in many ways: the peace of the countryside would be disturbed by both noise and air pollution, the safety of walkers and horse riders would be put at risk and the path would soon become so rutted and muddy as to make it very unpleasant, if not downright impossible, to walk on.

Already the North Downs Way/Pilgrims Way, a prehistoric trackway, is being damaged by trail riders and 4WDs, in spite of "Unsuitable for Motor Vehicles" notices both in the village and on Exedown Road. I know there is little that the Council can do about a situation which arises from the failure of successive Governments to amend the law in the 100 and more years since the invention of the "horseless carriage". However, to allow the MR231 to become a BOAT would, I suggest, run counter to the Council's own laudable response to the present Government's healthy recreation initiative. I urge the Council to reject the application without further ado."

The MR 231 application is part of a concerted effort throughout the country by the misleadingly named Green Lanes Association, which is comprised of motorcycle trail riders and 4 x 4 enthusiasts, to get vast numbers of RUPPs made into BOATs. If you see similar applications in your part of the county, write to the KCC using similar arguments but adapted, of course, to the local circumstances, and try to get support from your local Parish Council as well as friends who can write more letters.

Here is the solution to Shirley's Crossword Puzzle in issue number 68. There were six correct entries and Keith Warman's name was drawn from the bobble hat at the Group AGM.



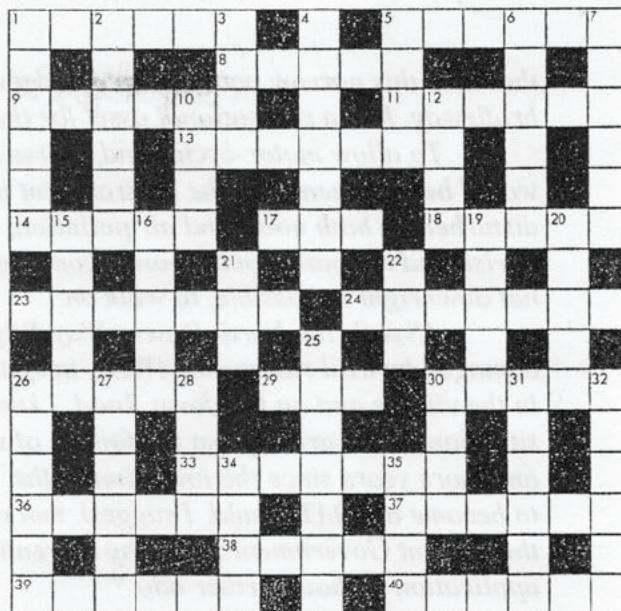
Crossword Puzzle
set by Shirley Higgins

Send solutions to

1 [redacted]
M [redacted]

by June 30th

Small prize for the
first correct solution
drawn from the bobble hat



ACROSS

1. Shout the title of a famous painting(6)
5. Take a break Laurie! Feeling better?(6)
8. Off white climber engulfs part of orchid(5)
9. Quizzed politician in programme uncovering extreme danger initially(6)
11. Off course, Ray sat bewildered(6)
13. Confused? Stand it a long way off(7)
14. Move in arc. This will help you find the path(5)
17. Mountain refuge in South Utah(3)
18. Peter in charge, in a flat spin(5)
23. Designed to keep you warm, essential when gliding(7)
24. Bird in flock in Lancashire(7)
26. Eastern valley at the start of a National Trail(5)
29. Drive sheep(3)
30. Endlessly pursue in turmoil to seize power(5)
33. Catch a virus and become unfriendly(3,4)
36. Headmaster has sports ground on hill(6)
37. Got it! Solved the puzzle(6)
38. Some time after surgery for William Tell perhaps(5)
39. Longs for a period of time before National Service(6)
40. Afterthought about former prizes(6)

DOWN

1. Infected messy cesspit lacking sulphur(6)
2. Border in one Italian resort(6)
3. Noon in the South of France(4)
4. Not in favour of circuit at a constant altitude(7)
5. Boy in dry anorak(4)
6. Surrender, squirming. Not good!(4,2)
7. Cad, say, upset about something to carry on a walk(6)
10. Need wild project in the West Country(4)
12. Pace wayward pets(4)
15. Stunted animal concealed pest(5)
16. Pastoral country(5)
19. Collection of maps for mountains in Morocco(5)
20. Inside pub at the centre of Canterbury(5)
21. Knock Bill upside down!(3)
22. Pass army officer(3)
25. Paul beheaded erstwhile Prime Minister(7)
26. Mobile green yard activity(6)
27. Back first-class chartered accountant about a tree(6)
28. So, unit of work comes to nothing(4)
30. Language in our duration(4)
31. Optimistic when conductor raises his baton(6)
32. Asks for parking guides(6)
34. Hesitation in front of huge deity(4)
35. This year is not one to jump(4)