



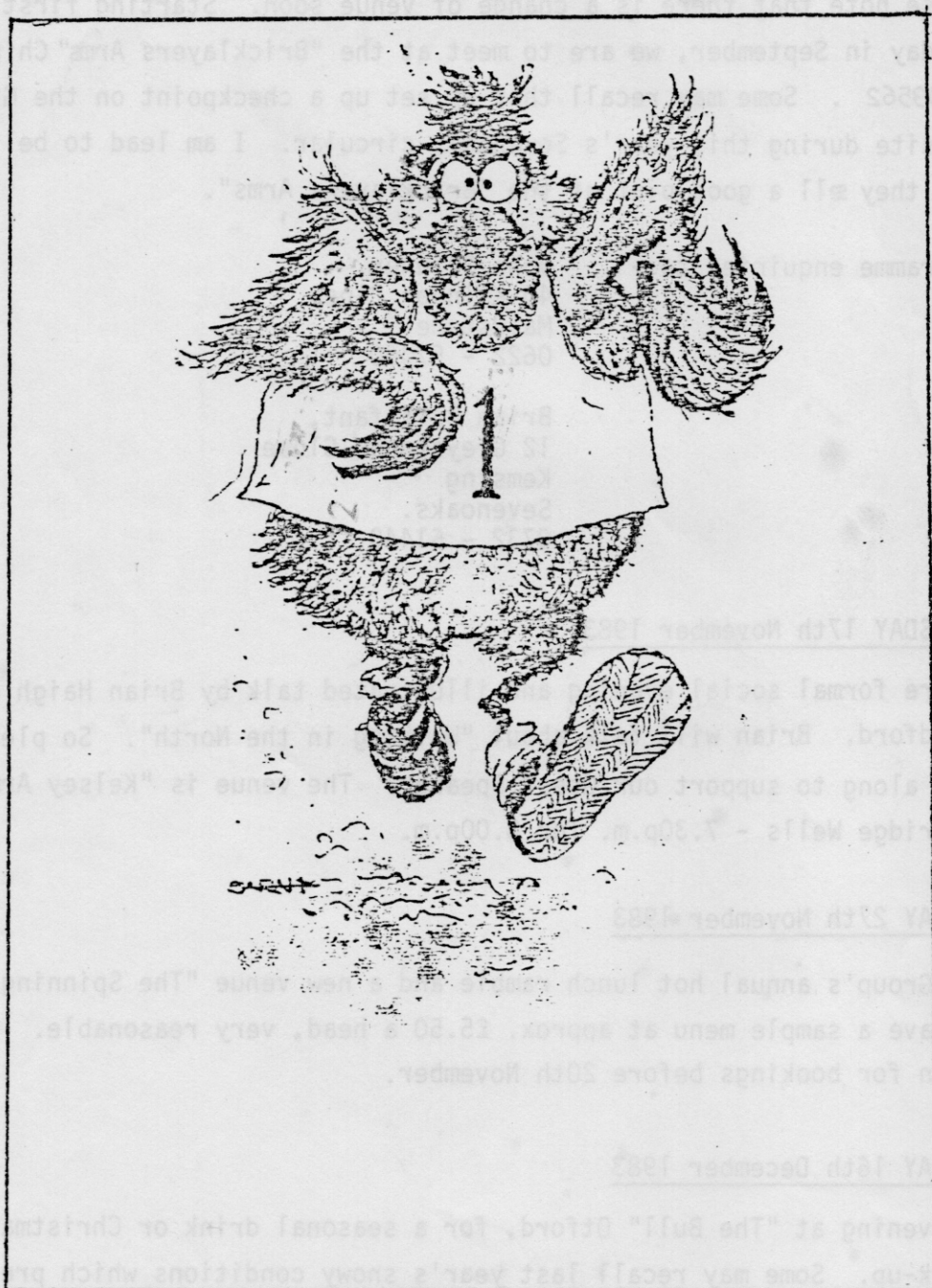
LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

Kent Group

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

NEWSLETTER

No. 2



July 1983

KENT GROUP PROGRAMME

Evening walks as usual are short, sharp walks for the longer summer evenings. Finish up at a pub.

TUESDAY 26th July 1983

Meet at 7.30p.m. at Hildenborough Station. Leader Mike Smith.

Social evenings. Always the first Tuesday in the month at "Crown Point Inn". On the A25 near Ightham. GR 576 577.

Please note that there is a change of venue soon. Starting first Tuesday in September, we are to meet at the "Bricklayers Arms" Chipstead. GR 499562. Some may recall that we set up a checkpoint on the Green opposite during this year's Sevenoaks circular. I am lead to believe that they sell a good pint at the "Bricklayers Arms".

Programme enquiries to:-

John Skinner.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Brian Buttifant,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

THURSDAY 17th November 1983

A more formal social evening and illustrated talk by Brian Haigh of Guildford. Brian will talk about "Walking in the North". So please come along to support our Guest Speaker. The venue is "Kelsey Arms" Tunbridge Wells - 7.30p.m. for 8.00p.m.

SUNDAY 27th November 1983

The Group's annual hot lunch ramble and a new venue "The Spinning Wheel". We have a sample menu at approx. £5.50 a head, very reasonable. Contact Brian for bookings before 20th November.

FRIDAY 16th December 1983

An evening at "The Bull" Otford, for a seasonal drink or Christmas drink-up. Some may recall last year's snowy conditions which prevented many from enjoying a pleasant evening.



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FRIDAY 27th January 1984

Now is the time for the Group's A.G.M. to be held at St. Edith Hall, Kemsing. 7.30p.m. for 8.00p.m. A very nice cup of tea and coffee is served.

Please note a special forthcoming attraction! We hope to have Leslie Smith (Sussex Member) up to give us an illustrated talk in the Spring 1984. Details to follow.

WALKING PROGRAMME

WEEK-END 17 - 18 September 1983

A group venture to do the "Cleveland Classic", 56 miles. Please contact John Skinner for details.

SUNDAY 2nd October 1983

Bedgebury - Bewlbridge walk, a repeat of last year's successful 20 to 25 mile walk. Join up with the Sussex group. Meet 9.30a.m. at Bewlbridge car park. GR 677 337.

WEEK-END 15 - 16 October 1983

The Kent group big venture and repeat of the first "Wealden Waters Walk" last held in 1981. 100Km/62½ miles. Arrangements are already under way. For details contact Mike Smith and all the help and support to man checkpoints etc. to Mike Smith,

STOP PRESS :- Offers of help still needed

for checkpoints and at the start and finish.

SUNDAY 13th November 1983

Beach-Downland walk of about 20 miles combine with the Sussex Group. Meet at St. Bede's School, Eastbourne, 9.15a.m. GR 601 972.

WEEK-END 27 - 28 August 1983

An opportunity for officials-helpers-supporters to walk the "Wealden Waters Walk". This arrangement to do the entire route is for those people who will help on the day. Meet at the "Pan Tiles" Tunbridge Wells for a 9.00a.m. start. Contact Mike Smith for details:- [REDACTED]

PAST EVENTS

SURREY SUMMITS:-

This year the Surrey Summits attracted a number of familiar Kent Group Members to take up the challenge of walking 100Km. This walk is no doddle and after a lot of rain over the preceeding week made the underfoot conditions muddy and wet. I had managed to talk some of my race walking friends to form a team and so it was that the "Cantlum R.W.C." won the team trophy.

PHIL

MOUSCRON 20Hr Walk - Belgium:-

Again the "Cantlum R.W.C." sent out a small team of walkers and supporters to take part in the 8th promotion of this event. All the team members walked with distinction, I finished in 2nd place and walked 153.5Km in the time allowance. We as a club won the team trophy for a second time.

PHIL

SEVENOAKS CIRCULAR:-

This year's walk was held over a new course. Many old friends turned up to enjoy a memorable walk in Kent and sample the mud and rain which always seems to be traditional. There were 107 retirements and in spite of the wet weather 260 walkers and runners finished the course in the time allowance.

BRIAN



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SWANLEY:-

Thursday evening walk (Election Day) led by Laurie Lowe from Swanley Station was well attended on a lovely summers evening. The group called in at Crockenhill for a welcome drink. There were 17 Members and one dog. The group included six ladies and a couple of new faces.

BRIAN

EWHURST:-

Over the week-end 24 - 25 June, Phil, walking for Cambridge Harriers successfully completed his 5th Centurion 100 mile race walk in a time of 21 Hours 22 Minutes. This year the event was organised by the "Surrey Walking Club" and took place at Ewhurst over a very hard course. I was ably assisted by Club Colleagues for the duration of the long walk. Additionally I was pleased to see Earnie helping at the Steer Checking to give a moral boost to a large group of L.D.W.A. Members. So in spite of blisters - sore feet and aching legs this was a satisfying experience.

PHIL

MID-SUMMER MARATHON

Peter Barnett and I travelled to Malvern to do this year's Mid-Summer Marathon. I had not been back to do this tough 35 mile walk since the first in 1977, so this was an over-due visit. The route has changed since I last did the walk, now taking in picturesque Market-town Ledbury. As we passed the Church a local wedding was in progress, a good job the reception was not nearby, otherwise the stocks of beer might have mysteriously been depleted - gosh it was hot! It was indeed a welcome return to this lovely range of hills and the orange segments at the checkpoint on top.

BRIAN

SNOWDON 100 miles

This was hard work! To start, it was raining hard as the mass of walkers assembled. I had fortunately brought an umbrella, which was to be a great help. I am sure that I walked in and out of every bog and puddle of water in North Wales. I found myself walking along happily with Brian B and Peter B during the night. Our Hon. Chairman Laurie L. played a blinder and was over the hills and far away.

I am full of admiration and appreciation to all the checkpoint staff who so cheerfully kept going for long hours. Ernie B. was in charge of a very congested half-way point, a mass of heaving steaming bodies all reluctant to move on. On the day the high route had to be abandoned because of bad weather and poor visibility.

There was a lot of fun and games around Tryfwn. As a matter of interest I believe Ernie B. is the only person to have walked the high route. This was done during the Marshalls walkout.

After many, many hours we staggered back into the hall at the finish. These walks do not get any easier in spite of experience gained over a number of years.

PHIL

LEADING A DOG's LIFE

I have been told of a chap who had completed a 45 mile sponsored walk for charity, arrived home in Stockport where his wife congratulated him. She then presented him with the dog's lead and the bright comment "He's been waiting for you for ages."

ROYAL MILITARY CANAL WALK - 26th FEBRUARY 1983

It was dull and misty as Brian B and I drove down to Hythe to meet up with the large, enthusiastic group of Kent LDWA members, who would undoubtedly join us there for the planned walk in the Romney Marsh area. By 9.20 am the mist had cleared, the sun was attempting to break through and not another soul had turned up! So the two of us set off westwards along the bank of the canal for several miles before climbing up onto the range of low hills which overlook the marsh at Lympne.

At the top, we paused briefly to survey our proposed route on the flat marshland set out below, and then descended steeply (passing two elephants on the way!) to cross the canal and head south towards Burmarsh. I had remembered Romney Marsh as being mainly pastureland - short-cropped turf with sheep and lambs. We found that it is now largely arable land - plenty of sticky mud with sparse winter wheat struggling through. On the map there are plenty of footpaths shown, but on the ground they seem to have all but disappeared.

After struggling along for several miles through this trackless, glutinous mud, we arrived at Newchurch and decided to take to the lanes in order to make further progress. Then at St Mary's Bay, having had enough of road walking, we marched along the track of a miniature railway to Dymchurch. Here we changed to our final choice of terrain - the smooth, firm sand of the beach which led us back from Dymchurch to Hythe.

An interesting 20 mile circuit, with plenty of variation in conditions underfoot. Pity about the lack of company!

WOOLMAN'S WAMBLE 19 JUNE 1983

Keith Warman an inveterate tramper of the byways of the Southern Counties led this walk from the Car Park at Forest Row abetted by Harry Bishop and Laurie Lowe (recent refugees from Snowdonia) Roy Warman, Ted Laundon and a covey of some new, young and keen walkers making up a party of eight which left the sunny embrace of the C.P. at 9.00.a.m.

A glorious morning was spent in an English and Sussex countryside with a sideways investigation of a solid looking privy in a field 'which might come in useful on the Wealden Waters,' so Laurie said, posing for a sitting-down shot.

To 'The Cat' at West Hoathly where nearly two hours was spent vainly trying to summon up courage for the second half in the sun.

A staggered start due to Beard's Sussex bitter and we were away and walked again with the hedges ablaze with every colour and scent and noisily alive with all our feathered friends. The mud of the recent past had dried up, the ground was dry and cracked at times and many a curse was heard of twisted ankle and horse fly bites.

Via Turners Hill and with the Bluebell Railway (but not on) we made our way to the Weir Wood Reservoir and navigated its northern path around the ruins of Old Brambletye House and thence to Forest Row.

A most enjoyable social journey and a warm endorsement from us all to Keith to lead another Woolman's Wamble in '84.

GROUP MEMBERS:

EDITOR: "He multiplieth words without knowledge!"

WOMEN MEMBERS: "Open not thy heart to every man."

MALE MEMBERS: "Give not thy soul unto a woman."

GROUP WALK LEADERS: "They be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind they both shall fall into the ditch."

PEOPLE AND A PEAK

In about 1975 The Countryside Commission asked a leading firm of Consultants to consider the problems of the summit of Snowdon, which is visited by some 210,000 people every year. More than half of these go up on foot, by any of the seven main paths, and these paths are thereby enlarged, eroded and ugly. It was suggested that these paths should be properly maintained and restored using techniques developed by Telford in 1815. The cost was estimated to be £100,000 with an annual maintenance cost of £13,000, say 10p per walker or 5p per boot.

Further it was suggested that the summit buildings themselves should be redesigned to blend with the natural lines of the slope - a sort of lean-to type building being envisaged. However, the problem is cost, for building is only possible for six months of the year and all materials would have to be carried up to the site by rail or helicopter.

From the terminus/cafe the way to the summit cairn would be landscaped with steps and paths and handrails to reduce short cuts.

However, it seems to me that the obvious solution has been missed. The Countryside Commission has been failing in its duty by not considering energy conservation, the prevention of many accidents, and the provision of attractions for members and family or group not interested in viewing a heap of stones. My suggestion is much simpler and will cost far less than the solution put forward. In a nutshell, I propose to reduce the erosion at the top by moving the summit to the valley below. By carefully siting the cairn between a fairground and a public lavatory, and across the road from a cafe, you could satisfy all those who haven't the time to go and look for the cairn four miles away up an inconvenient branch line and with no adjacent car park. This would also be fairer, since no discrimination against under-financed, ill-equipped, old or lame members of society would be made. If successful this solution could be applied to other inconvenient summits such as Scarfell, Cross Fell - miles away from the nearest road, Ben Nevis - often covered in snow.

"LOST": (A true story)

"Officer, I want to report the theft of some camping gear."

"What exactly was stolen?"

"Well, a cagjak for a start."

"A what?"

"A cagjak, C-A-G-J-A-K, it's halfway between a cagoule and a jacket."

"A what and a jacket?"

"A cagoule. C-A-G-O-U-L-E- It's a sort of garment to keep off the rain in the mountains instead of an umbrella."

"What does it look like?"

"Well, it's fluorescent orange."

"It's what?"

"A sort of very bright orange so you can be seen a long way away."

"You mean like roadmenders wear?"

"Well, a bit like that."

"Right then. Lost: one roadmender's jacket. Now, what else was stolen?"

EQUIPMENT TRIP

I have always found car keys to be a problem when out walking. In a pocket they can rattle irritatingly, or chafe a sore patch on the thigh. On the other hand, if you just drop them into a day bag, there is always the risk of pulling them out unnoticed with a sweater etc.

One solution to this problem is to stitch a safety pin to the inside of the sac and then secure the keyring to it at the start of a walk. However, this idea can lead to another problem. At a recent event I locked the driver's door, put the the keys into the rucsac and then allowed the self-locking rear door of the car to slam shut with the bag still inside the car!

L.L.

HAVE YOU HEARD:-

About the Irishman who thought a kilogram was an Italian radio.

The same fellow thought that Hertz van Hire was a Dutch painter.

LDWA KENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP 1982

George Hornby
Nick Woollett
Rodger King
Margaret Moore
Don Scott
Trevor Blake
Phil Hastings
Laurie Lowe
Bryan Rance
Ernie Bishop
Celia Bishop
David Bennett
Mike Smith
Charles Heather
Bryan Clarke
Harry Clark
Ron Roweth
Peter Barnett
Martin Bartlett
John Skinner
Christine Skinner
Bill Wicks
Andrew Melling
Keith Porter
Peter Rickards
Moiria Rickards
Brian Buttifant
Dave Cowley
Ian Fryer
Alf Philpotts
Phillip Wheele
Gillian Pocock
Ken Hodgkin
Harold Mann
Robert Pocock
Ted Laundon
Ian Beveridge
Len Wilson
Derek Smith
Mike Slingo

George Rodgers

Rex Stickland

Keith Warman

Kim Harrison

Nigel Smetham

Gordon Beattie

Richard Quinn

Derek Vine

Robert Evans

Robert Van der Poorten

Ivan Verrell

Mike Cockle

Martin Willgoss

Jack Burgoyne

Joined since January 1st 1983

Jeff Blower

Peter Major

Arthur Tester

Rene Caney

Roy Warman

Sue Porter

Alan Ball

Peter Elwin

Graham Pearson

Additions to membership list

Rindy Bakker

John Sellens

Harry Bishop

Chris Sainty

Andrew Kean

Pat Drury

Richard Tombs

Paul Woodison

John Stew