



LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

Kent Group

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

NEWSLETTER

No. 6



DECEMBER 1984

FUTURE PROGRAMME DETAILS

- Friday 14th December - Pre-Christmas get together for drinks (and sandwiches?) at The Bull, Otford. From 8 pm onwards
- Friday 18th January - Winter Night Hike. Meet at The Chequers, Aylesford. Car park 100 yds from pub. GR 732 588. Meet at 10 pm. NOTE NEW VENUE. 26 miles. Contact JOHN SKINNER for more details on [REDACTED] [REDACTED].
- Friday 25th January - Group AGM. 7.30 for 8.00 at St. Edith Hall, Kemsing.
- Sunday 17th February - East Kent Mills and Marshes. 20 miles approx. in the Stour Valley, led by Mike Smith. Meet Canterbury West station for 9.30 am. start.
- Sunday 3rd March - Marshal's walk of the Sevenoaks Circular route. Meet at the Buckhurst Lane car park no. 2, Sevenoaks at 8.30 am.
- Sat/Sun 9/10 March - LDWA AGM at Folkestone - more details below.
- Sunday 17th March - Sevenoaks Circular. 30 mile event from Raley's Centre, Sevenoaks. 9 am. start in Knole Park. See entry form for full details. As usual, help will be needed on the day! Contact Brian Buttifant with your offers.
- Thursday 18 April - Members slide evening at the Kelsey Arms, T. Wells. 7.30 for 8. Members are asked to bring along a few of their own slides on any topic connected with walking.
- Friday 12th April - North Downs Way Loop. 54 miles from Chilham via Dover and Canterbury. Meet in pub (where else?) in Chilham square at 10 pm. It is planned to walk through the night, have breakfast somewhere convenient and complete the loop the following day.

Don't forget the pub meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. Held at the Bricklayers Arms, Chipstead. 7.30 till "time". Come and join us! We are still looking for possible new venues - any suggestions?

COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES - 27th September 1984

Sevenoaks Circular - Same route as last year to be used. (new route is planned for 1986) Keith Warman to prepare '85 route description. Check cards will be used this time in order to eliminate recording errors etc. More food to be available at midway checkpoint to ensure that late arrivals do not miss out on refreshments!

Finance - Ernie informed meeting that the group had made a profit so far this year. Since the taxman had been making enquiries into our finances, it was decided to invest some of the money in extra equipment to aid the smooth running of events. It was agreed that the group should purchase:-

Headed stationery with group logo.
A spare gas cylinder for water heater.
Four pump action Thermos flasks.
A further 200 Sevenoaks Circular badges.

Martin Bartlett agreed to keep a record of the locations of all group equipment. Please provide him with details of all the equipment that you are storing for the group.

Group AGM - nomination forms for election of club officers and committee members will be circulated to all members prior to the AGM on January 25th. The committee felt that the group should have a basic constitution drawn up. A draft version is in the process of being prepared for consideration.

LDWA AGM - Folkestone - It is hoped that the Kent group will be well represented at the Association's annual meeting which will be held at the Southcliff Hotel. The speaker will be Alan Mattingly, Secretary of the R.A. The group will be arranging the traditional walks for Sunday morning, before members depart for their journeys home. Full details will appear in the December Strider.

REPORTS OF PAST EVENTS

South Downs Way 80 - 30th June/1st July 1984.

The third running of this increasingly popular event took place between Queen Elizabeth Park, near Petersfield and Eastbourne Rugby Club, following the South Downs Way for all but the last 2 of the 80 miles. Although officially a run, the time limit of 33 hours and long checkpoint opening times attracts many walkers, and the limit of 400 was reached weeks before the event.

Keen runners were nailing starting blocks at the Country Park, others were setting stop watches! The 9 am. start meant walking through a hot day, although it was not as hot as in 1983.

The route description was good, apart for the attempted re-routing around Rodmell for safety reasons. Along with ten others, I managed to get lost here, which cost me half an hour. Checkpoints were well spaced, with a good variety of food and drink. Baggage was taken to Truleigh Hill (41 miles) and a hot meal was provided. Facilities were excellent at the Eastbourne Club, an ideal finishing venue.

A total of 289 entrants finished within the time limit, with Frank Thomas and Martyn Greaves finishing together in 11 hours and 1 minute (under 8½ minutes per mile!) Martyn's warming-down was the Tanners 30 the next day !

Although costing £10, I think the Felbridge Juniors Rugby Club did a good organising job and I would recommend this event to anyone wanting a long mid-summer challenge. Having finished in 21½ hours, I shall probably try again to get close to 20 hours.

Finally, I should like to thank my parents for taking me to the start and for meeting me throughout the first day, and also Susan and Ivan for their support in the last 10 miles and for letting me sleep all the way back to Crockenhill! They all enabled me to concentrate solely on the walk.

KEITH WARMAN

CENTURION 100 MILE WALK - LEICESTER - 27/28th July 1984

Exactly 100 walkers from all over the country and the Continent had entered for this year's annual 100 mile walk. Again our Dutch friends made up the bulk of the entries. On the day 78 competitors assembled at the start. This included 6 lady walkers who started off some 50 yards ahead of the main field. There were a number of very notable walkers in the race, such people as Derrek Harrison from the Isle of Man and local man Brian Adams. Amongst the ladies was Sandra "Twinkle Toes" Brown, while her husband Richard "The Lion Heart" set out with the men. The walk commenced at 6 pm and the evening was very pleasant but it soon started a fine but intermittent drizzle, which persisted throughout the night. By the time we had walked the 13 miles out of Leicester to the start of the lapped course, the field had become well spread out.

I found myself walking along on my own and it became a rather lonely and forlorn walk for me down very dark country lanes around Bosworth Field. No one to talk to! I was doing my best to catch up to my old colleague Fred Baker, but what I did not know was that at the time he had pulled off the road into a car for a rest. Eventually young Garreth Davies shuffled up behind me. I was indeed very pleased to see someone else, as I was beginning to think that every one had gone home! We walked for five hours together without seeing another walker. Apart from people at the checkpoints, it was a lonely walk and we were happy to have each other's company. Conversation was rather limited during the early hours of the morning. When daylight came we met up with Gerrit de Jong of Holland. The day became hotter as the hours rolled on. I could not help noticing that a number of other walkers were sitting in cars at the side of the road having retired from the race. Ian Mcloed had retired after losing his way again in the dark. This is the second occasion that he has found difficulty at Leicester in following the course in the dark. So inspite of various lights and lamps set up around the course, it would appear that better arrangements have to be made in the future.

We caught up with John Westcott who was just sauntering along and in the end he was obliged to retire as he was running (or walking!) out of time. I had no idea how Sandra and Richard Brown were doing up front. Later I learnt that Sandra had set a new world record for a lady in a time of 18 hours 36 mins. Again I think some better visual arrangement for monitoring the progress of walkers should be set up.

After the eighty mile mark my progress became desperate. The day was very hot, in fact it was to be the hottest day of the year. Unfortunately for us we were out on the road walking as best we could. Two official checkpoints were insufficient for the needs of very weary and thirsty walkers. I honestly feel that there should be three official feeding stations. People were marvellous and only too willing to help with drinks. On the way back into Leicester I nearly resorted to the ultimate ploy of running past the chief judge and getting "pulled". I could then later plead that it was a harsh decision as I only stumbled over a bump in the road. "And I was going so well at the time too." No, we would not do that sort of thing, as we are British!

Eventually I wound my back to the finish in 22nd position in a time of 22 hours 3 minutes to successfully complete my 6th Centurion walk. Well pleased with my overall effort, but very tired and weary at the end.

PHIL HASTINGS

HASTINGS to BRIGHTON ROAD WALK (38 miles) - 4th August

One week after successfully completing the Centurion 100 mile walk at Leicester I was out again on the road. Very cautiously I set off along the sea front at Hastings determined not to be drawn out by the fast pace set by those ahead of me. I very soon worked my way to the back of the field. Mind you, I did eventually catch up to and pass a walker from Leicester and then up to my club colleague 'Big' Hans Rennie. He was having a temporary power failure to the legs, so we socialised for a while as we walked along on a warm sunny day. Around a bend in the road we came across Chris 'Blisters' Hayes sitting on the verge applying plaster to his feet. I nobly stayed behind and walked with Chris but he was to retire at the 40 km marker. The fellow from Leicester also retired at the 40 km point, so I was still last! I was amused when officials politely asked without hurting my delicate feelings if I had passed any one or other walkers out on the road. Not so old Jack Magog of Brighton and Hove A.C., he simply came out straight from the shoulder "Are you the last B*stard out on the road?" I answered "I'm afraid so, but I am doing my best!"

I was now gradually whittling away the distance between myself and Hans ahead of me, but I was not to catch up to him. I did pass one poor fellow right down in Brighton with less than a mile to go, so I was not last in at the end. My time was 7 hours 34 minutes. Pride always goes before a fall, at the presentation, the last man was given a wooden spoon prize, in this case a nice pair of white socks!!

Phil Hastings

P.S. As I was walking along the road to Brighton, I thought of the happy band of pilgrims from the LDWA who were doing the 50 mile Cross Surrey Walk. Best of luck lads!!

"ACROSS SURREY WALK" - 5/6th August.

This walk of approximately 50 miles follows the line of hills from the Surrey border near Farnham to the Kent border at Westerham.

Twelve walkers, eight from Kent and four from Surrey, assembled at Frensham Ponds and set off, led by Ernie Bishop, soon after midday. The weather was warm but with frequent heavy showers, interspersed with a warm soft drizzle. The rain cleared during the late afternoon, giving way to a calm, warm night.

The effect of the rain was to produce soft going underfoot, which made a welcome change from the rock-hard ground which we had all experienced during the recent months. We made steady progress eastwards to arrive at Abinger at 7 pm. for a welcome pub stop to take on beer and food. It was here that we were met by Keith Warman, who had kindly transported two walkers to the start and was now planning to support us with food and hot coffee at three convenient points along the route.

We left the pub at 8.30, well refreshed and Ernie found a relatively easy route up onto the Downs at Ranmore common. But worse was to come! The climb in the dark up the steep side of Boxhill, soon to be followed by what seemed an even steeper route onto Colley Hill, led us to the welcome sight of Keith's checkpoint at Reigate Hill.

By now care was needed to keep the group together in the dark and Pete Barnett took on the job of official sweeper. The weather remained warm and dry throughout the night, although at times we could see lightening flashes both to the north and to the south of us. Our luck changed as we left another of Keith's checkpoints at Gravelly Hill. The sky suddenly opened and rain fell in the proverbial "stair rods". In the absence of any useful shelter, we carried on until the cloudburst stopped. As a result of the now heavy cloud, the dawn

seemed to be a long time coming. We arrived at Westerham Hill at about 6.30am. to be met by Keith and three wives who had been roused from their beds by early morning phone calls from Botley Hill!!

Our combined thanks to Susan, Pauline and Celia, and of course Keith, for providing transport and support, and to Ernie for leading the group and kindly waiting for the slower members of the party !!

Laurie L.

15th DODENTOCHT - MARCHE DE LA MORT - DEATH MARCH 9/10th August

Knowing that Ivan and Ernie did this event last year, I decided to have a go and managed to persuade Ivan to make the trip again. Susan then decided that she too would enter and get as far as she could.

This walk is a 62½ mile circular from Bornem in Belgium and a rather frustrating journey from Kent (missing an hourly connection by two minutes) saw us arrive in a town busily preparing for its annual spectacle. The event started at 9 pm. on the Friday evening and after two circuits of the town, branches out on a large loop, all on roads, and with a 24 hour time limit.

After preparing our beds in the local gymnasium and carbo-loading with a giant spaghetti Bolognese, we were ready to set off with 3,200 hardy souls. After the start, the entrants are led through the streets by a black coffin and bearers, perhaps a gentle reminder as to what may happen to drop-outs. Darkness soon fell and the night was warm and humid, but at least it was dry.

I passed Susan and Ivan after about eight miles but staying up half the previous night watching Daley Thompson's athletic exploits caught up with me and I began to feel sleepy at around 3 am. With fond thoughts of my favourite bus shelter at Puttenham, where it has not been unknown for me to take a short nap during the Surrey Summits, I found the perfect continental equivalent consisting of three moulded plastic seats, and I had a very comfortable sleep. On awaking I peered out into the blackness to see Ivan and Susan just 10 yards away !

We continued to Aarlst, the halfway point, where our baggage had been taken and surveyed our sore and blistered feet. Susan was feeling weary at this point (31 miles, 5 miles longer than her furthest walk to date), but she decided to carry on. Suitably replenished, we carried on in daylight, now on the journey back to Bornem. The flat landscape and lack of route description made the mind wander a bit, although some of the villages we passed silently through seemed interesting.

Throughout this second half, drinks and the odd orange segment were gratefully accepted from kind locals; each of the checkpoints had free water, tea, coffee and a revolting "sportsdrink", not forgetting the beer and food which could be bought. I was once offered a piece of rice and custard flan which was delicious. None of us will forget the three mile monotonous trudge alongside the railway line at about 45 miles; you need to be sound in mind as well as body to get through this, I thought. Neither will we forget the stench of Belgian canals nor the privacy these continentals don't seek when relieving themselves!!

Despite blisters, I finished in 20½ hours and after collecting certificate, daffodil and medal, I went back to the gymnasium to shower and sleep for 12 hours. I had assumed that Ivan and Susan were still going and this was confirmed in the morning when I discovered they had both finished in 21 hours and 45 minutes.

After breakfast we made our way home in pouring rain, including a meal stop in Ostend. The highlight of the trip was, of course, the Campari on the return jetfoil ! I would like to thank my two chums for their company and

especially to say "Well done Sue" for completing this deceptively difficult event. Did I really hear her say on the Sunday morning "What time does today's walk start?" There's no stopping her now!!

Keith Warman

AROUND THE WEALDEN WATERS - 25/26th August.

On a steamy, humid morning in late August Mike Smith led a band of amblers out on the Wealden Waters route. Ron Roweth, Steve Rackett, Ernie Bishop and your scribe followed him out and within a short time started dripping. Many a fleshly pound was to be lost during the course of this hot day. Ernie knew best and at Bewl Bridge he discreetly retired to home, some visiting friends and no doubt some cold lager! Celia Bishop had met us with drinks and biscuits for which we were most grateful. At this point a trip in a boat on the reservoir looked more inviting than the hack to Forest Row.

A few more miles and a welcome stop at the 4Ks pub at Wadhurst. Carbohydrates and liquor downed, off to Bowles Centre we headed where we had a further rest and recuperation period. New ground from here for me, as 1983's weather had forced me to retire at this point on the actual event.

Where fern and bush now boldly grew, some testing navigation was called for by the team before we reached Broadstone Warren and a thousand happy campers. It grew a little cooler as darkness came but light enough for us to see the door of the "Swan" at Forest Row where Nick Woollett joined us. The next nine miles were trekked to Nick's house at Hever, where an early morning breakfast was partaken and where Laurie and Eileen Lowe appeared, to act as our ministering angels for the rest of the walk.

Outrageously nettle stung and bramble torn and in Steve's case bee stung as well, we started on the final quarter. Ailment overtook our leader who manfully struggled on, Steve's feet were suffering badly and Ron and I in sympathy with them (Mike and Steve, not the latter's feet!!) hurried on to Checkpoint Lowe, in order to drink the gorgeous Chicken Soup before they got there. Penshurst Castle came and went and another 'Checkpoint Chicken' stop. Some time after, the Pantiles hove in sight. All of us had got around and though I promised to "Tyburn Tree" the man who led us, he was let off on the promise of better weather for W.W.W. 1985. Many thanks to Celia, Nick's hospitality and Laurie and Eileen for all their support and late night and morning comfortings.

HARRY BISHOP

LONDON TO BRIGHTON ROAD WALK - 53½ miles - 1st September.

This was the 59th promotion of this famous road walking race, but regrettably, the event is dying on its feet. 40 people had entered but only 25 turned up on the day. There are a number of reasons for the decline of this wonderful walk. Mainly people are of the opinion that it has become too dangerous, brought about by a great increase of fast moving road traffic on the A23.

One walker was disqualified for running before he had reached Streatham. A number of back markers were obviously going to be out of time, i.e. 12 hours, so they had to retire. For my part, I very soon joined up with John Keown of Belgrave Harriers and we walked together all the way down to Brighton in a time of 10 hours 24 minutes. We were a couple of real old war horses, John has done 26 consecutive walks down to Brighton, while I am a mere beginner at 6 completions.

continued.....

Footnote: - On the way to Brighton, I picked up 18 pence in 1p, 2p and 5p pieces. I know I am going blind and need glasses these days but I can still see a 1p coin at 25 paces. While walking the Manchester to Blackpool race, I only picked up 1p. So from this I can only conclude that folk in the north of England are more careful with their brass than are people down in the south!

Phil Hastings

ROUBAIX 28 HOUR ROAD WALK - 15/16 th September.

This walk is a killer! I should know better by now than to tackle this long event again. Never-the-less, we got together a team of enthusiastic walkers and helpers to take part in this walk in northern France. Our team consisted of Roger Michel, Sandra "Twinkle Toes" Brown and that "Golden Oldie" Phil Hastings. We also had the iron man himself, Paddy Dowling of Sheffield along with us. All LDWA members! Mick Marshal was our road-side manager and he was ably assisted by Johnny Morris of Belgrave Harriers.

The course consists of a very long first lap of 43 km, before starting on the smaller 6.68 km lap that meanders around Roubaix. Finally, over the last hour of the race, the high street is closed to all vehicular traffic and we are required to walk up and down this 1.47 km road. The general idea is to walk as far as possible in the allotted 28 hour time. It all sounds straight forward until you try it. Initially, there is this temptation to go off far too quickly, to get carried away as you set out on the 43 km tour of the surrounding countryside. Once this stage of the walk has been completed, it is a matter of quietly settling down to a steady pace. Our two attendants were doing us proud, operating from the bus shelter where they had set up our checkpoint. A corner in a foreign land that will forever be English. Johnny was wearing his black berret, we thought he looked like a French onion seller. "Good on yer, sport!" A vast number of people had set up camp and caravan in this location as it is a prime position on the course to give and take instructions from the walkers out on the road. An enterprising local across the road had set up a mobile fish and chip stall.

At some time in the early hours of the morning I became very weary and exhausted. I was obliged to take a two hour sleep at the Red Cross centre. Sandra had walked into the brick wall and could not go on. She was obliged to retire at the 143 km mark. Roger plugged away manfully but like so many other walkers had to have a rest at some stage. Fortunately for us the weather was rather kind and we were able to progress along in reasonably cool conditions. Towards the end I was walking two laps of the course before having 10 minutes rest. Roger did manage to keep moving a few degrees better this year. In the end Paddy Dowling did 227 km., Roger covered 196 km., while I managed to walk 171 km. Sandra did 143 km.

Apart from the hard long slog, this was another satisfying trip abroad.

Phil Hastings

WYE WALKABOUT - 30th September.

After a wet night and still raining at 9 am, it was good to see 13 people turn up for a 20 mile social walk. We welcomed five new faces, including three local members recently joined.

Our outward journey was wet as we walked on our way through Lybridge Green, everybody was pleased to shed their waterproofs when the rain finally stopped at about midday. We arrived at the Coach and Horses, Lyminge about 1 pm for a

welcome beer or two. The publican allowed us to eat our sandwiches inside where we could get to know the newcomers in comfort. While we were there the pub held a bingo/raffle by which means Moira became richer - worth coming she thought!

Soon after leaving the pub we spotted an antique fair in the village hall and we all descended on it looking for bargains. While Laurie was finding his piece of antique glass and others were sampling the wares of the tea and cakes stall, we met two stallholders who it turned out, were interested in walking and were potential members.

The weather was improving all the time and we soon had the sun to help us on our way. We came across a refreshment stall and Moira bought us all (13!) an ice lolly out of her winnings. The homeward journey was along the North Downs Way and in one of its many pastures we collected some fine field mushrooms - out came plastic bags and lunch boxes to hold the finds. We arrived back at Wye feeling the day had been better than the forecast had promised and therefore making it the more enjoyable.

Brian Buttifant

P.S. When Brian and I had been checking the route a few weeks earlier, we caught up with a couple of young Americans on the N.D.W. They had landed at Dover and set out on the N.D.W. for Canterbury. We did not have the heart to tell them that they had picked up the southern part of the route and were heading for Wye rather than Canterbury!! Still they seemed to have plenty of time!

Laurie.

ANDREDSWEALD - 21st October

The group's bi-annual venture into 'border country' was blessed with fine weather this year. 177 starters (plus several dogs) set off from the village hall at Forest Row to tackle the 25 mile route amid the splendid scenery of the Ashdown Forest.

The good weather and easy conditions (and of course, an accurate route description) made for good progress and many regular entrants recorded personal best times for the event. As usual checkpoints 2 and 4 were at the same location and there were a few hectic moments as the last (or lost) runners arriving at CP2 coincided with the first walkers returning to CP4! People seemed to be appearing from all points of the compass and the situation was further complicated by the fact that Christine and Kim would not let participants partake of the choice fruitcake which was available, until they re-appeared the second time round!

The fine conditions resulted in very few retirements and several very young walkers seemed to make light of the challenge. Our thanks to all who helped make this a successful event - specially Ernie Bishop who was responsible for the overall organisation - and the ladies who encountered and overcame the problems in the kitchen. Their free food and drinks at the finish were most welcome to all taking part.

Laurie L.

Postscript to the Pearl $\frac{1}{2}$ Marathon at Thamesmead in April

Roy Warman sends this item relating to the event which was briefly reported in issue number 4. This race was one of a series of heats, the first 50 in each heat went into the final held at Birmingham. It seems that the Pearl Assurance Company is now offering special rates for life insurance to all who finished inside 2 hours on the assumption that you must be reasonably healthy to manage this time! No medical examination is required!

Dear Editor,

I'm sorry to learn that Keith Warman & Co found the 'Ridgeway' so boring. Having done it ten times, there must be something more to it than an annual re-union and the pleasant ritual of Sunday coffee at the 'Swan' and lunch at the 'Catherine Wheel'. Given a decent day, and only two of the ten years were a bit rough, I think it mostly a splendid walk, only equalled for me by the 'one off' Captain Cook Walk in 1978.

I can do without route-finding, I always stop at the 'Shepherd's Rest' (boots off is OK with me, no deposit on the glasses this year!) and Streatly Hostel has taken an up-turn. Marshelling and drinks are always good, and the last three miles always diabolical. Anyway, I'm setting up a 'Ridgeway Pint' for finishers over 60 at the 'Catherine Wheel', by arrangement with the landlords. I'm not sure whether to hope that there aren't too many of them!

With apologies for not recognising our members,

Harold Mann

A CURE FOR MEDALOMANIA

I have noticed in the last few "Newsletters" the apparent dislike of medals and other metallic embellishments as kilometered out at IVV-type events.

May I suggest a possible answer to this problem? Perhaps a committee member could be nominated to collect all unwanted decorations from walkers' homes, and I would like to suggest that a start in the Swanley area could prove rather fruitful. They could then be melted down and moulded into Kent Group earrings, to be worn with pride on all important occasions.

Name and address supplied.

ARTHUR EDDLESTON, B.E.M.

There is a very sad footnote to the Hastings to Brighton Race. We had been expertly looked after by Arthur and his wife Rita. The following week I went up to do the Manchester to Blackpool Race Walk, while Arthur and police colleague Bryan Watson went off to the French Alps to do some mountain climbing. It was while descending a mountain that they were killed by an avalanche. This is a tragic loss to us all as we simply cannot replace him. Always an even-tempered, generous character who knew only too well the long hard ultra distance walking. We had walked the famous 28 hr event at Roubaix together. He was always a reassuring chap to have about and had completed a couple of Sevenoaks Circular events. I am pleased to say that we formed part of a successful team that won the Surrey Summits team event one year. So in spite of having to give up real competitive race walking, I was trying to persuade Arthur to join us on a few fun events with the LDWA. Last year Arthur did remarkably well to finish 4th in the Quadrathon Marathon, and of course he still holds the record for the Three Peaks Walk i.e. Ben Nevis - Scarfell - Snowdon.

We will always remember him with affection and respect and hope he looks down kindly from his cloud as we are hoofing our weary way along the road.

Phil Hastings

Quote :-

"I kept catching up walkers who were going faster than me !"

VICTORIA COACH STATION

Have members ever had to wait for any length of time at the Victoria Coach Station for a National coach that would take them out to an event ? Have you had to struggle through that heaving mass of humanity, breath in those carbon monoxide fumes, been dropped upon by pigeons, shuffled through litter, eaten quick food snacks or meals in the cafeteria and generally ended up feeling browned off ? Well, I have found the solution to this problem. Less than two minutes walk away, in Ebury Square, you will find the answer. In peace and seclusion, you will come across two lovely wooden park benches under large shady trees. This little square is neat and tidy, set in the superior end of Pimlico and downtown Belgravia. It also has an underground Ladies and Gents, where you do not have to trip over bodies laying on the floor in order to get to the loo! There is also a very reasonably priced restaurant serving meals all day. Now what more could you ask for !!

PHIL

P.S. - On the other hand you could freeze to death in winter or be flooded out by monsoon rain. You may find the toilets closed and Sen. Ratatouille, the restaurant owner has gone off to Sicily for the winter!

COVER DESIGN FOR THE NEWSLETTER

We have now used the "Hairy Monster Walker" as a cover on six issues of the group newsletter. This was provided by Phil and originated as an odd design found on a greetings card.

Can anyone out there design and execute a new cover, perhaps based on the group badge ? Ideally it should be in the form of a line drawing, in black and white only for easy reproduction. Think about it !!

I married a widow who had a grown-up daughter. My father, who visited us quite often, fell in love with my step-daughter and married her. Some months later, my wife gave birth to a son, who became the brother-in-law of my father as well as my uncle. The wife of my father, that is my step-daughter, also had a son. Thereby, I got a brother and at the same time, a grandson. My wife is my grandmother, since she is my mother's mother. Hence, I am my wife's husband and at the same time her step-grandson; in other words, I AM MY OWN GRANDFATHER!!!!

PHIL HASTINGS