

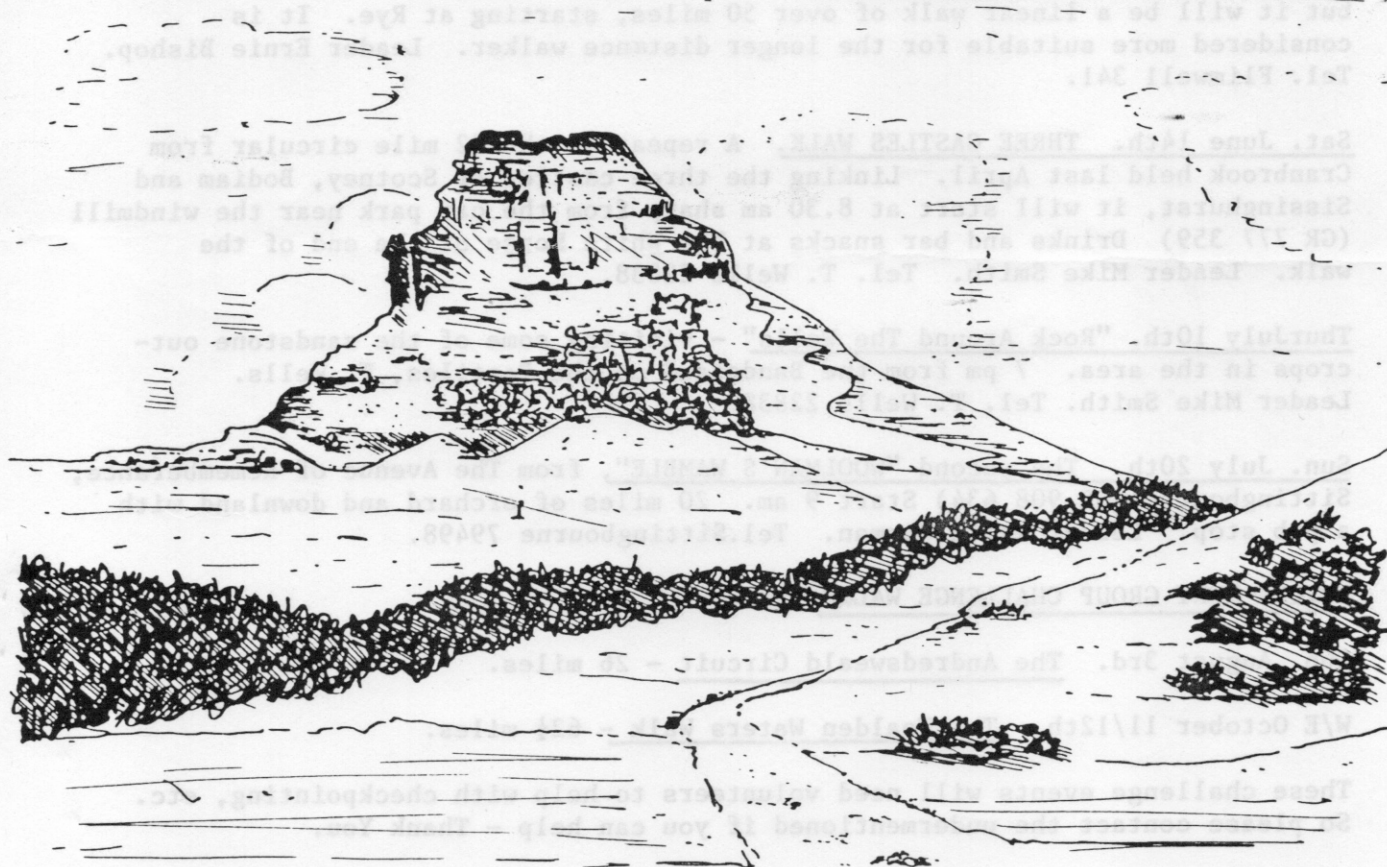


LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

Kent Group

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

NEWSLETTER



KENT GROUP of the LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

ChairmanPeter Barnett

SecretaryBrian Buttifant

TreasurerTed Laundon

Committee :- Trevor Blake, Graham James, Ron Roweth,

Dave Sheldrake, Keith Warman.

Editor..Laurie Lowe.

PROGRAMME DETAILS

Sat. April 26th. HAWKHURST CIRCULAR. A 25 mile walk from Etchingham station (GR 714 263, sheet 188 & 199) Start at 9 am. Refreshment stop at Iden Green. Leader is Maurice Faircloth. Tel. [REDACTED].

Thur. May 15th. EVENING WALK around Keston, near Bromley. Meet at Hayes station for a 7 pm start. Leader Alan Ball. Tel. [REDACTED].

W/E June 7/8th. SUSSEX BORDER PATH. As yet final details are not available but it will be a linear walk of over 50 miles, starting at Rye. It is considered more suitable for the longer distance walker. Leader Ernie Bishop. Tel. [REDACTED].

Sat. June 14th. THREE CASTLES WALK. A repeat of the 32 mile circular from Cranbrook held last April. Linking the three castles of Scotney, Bodiam and Sissinghurst, it will start at 8.30 am sharp from the car park near the windmill (GR 777 359) Drinks and bar snacks at The White Horse at the end of the walk. Leader Mike Smith. Tel. [REDACTED].

Thur July 10th. "Rock Around The Wells" - visiting some of the sandstone outcrops in the area. 7 pm from the Bandstand on the Pantiles, T. Wells. Leader Mike Smith. Tel. [REDACTED].

Sun. July 20th. The second "WOOLMAN'S WAMBLE", from The Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne (GR 908 634) Start 9 am. 20 miles of orchard and downland with a pub stop. Leader Keith Warman. Tel. [REDACTED].

FUTURE KENT GROUP CHALLENGE WALKS

Sun. August 3rd. The Andredsweald Circuit - 26 miles.

W/E October 11/12th. The Wealden Waters Walk - 62½ miles.

These challenge events will need volunteers to help with checkpointing, etc. So please contact the undermentioned if you can help - Thank You.

Andredsweald..... Ernie Bishop, [REDACTED].

Wealden Waters Walk.....Brian Buttifant, [REDACTED].

A Letter from ALAN & BERYL CASTLE.

Dear Brian and all Members of the Kent Group, 17th December

Thanks for sending us the latest issue of the Kent Newsletter. As you probably know we are/were in all three of the S.E. groups and I can honestly say that your newsletter is by far the best. It is packed with very interesting accounts and it is the enthusiasm and good nature of your members that comes across so clearly. Keep up the good work!

As you know, Beryl and I are in the process of moving to the North of England (The Wirral) Beryl is now working up there but I cannot get away until April and so life is a bit hectic at present. I am working here in the South and travelling up most weekends. With all this "to-ing and fro-ing" we do not have much time for walking and we are both getting very unfit!

We would like to thank all Members of the Kent Group for the friendliness that they have shown us over the last few years. We only regret that we did not join the LDWA earlier! I am sure that we will meet you all again in the not too distant future, either on a Northern event or down here on familiar ground. (Thinks- I must send off my Downsman entry!!)

Please pass on our regards to everyone and Good Walking in 1986!

Alan and Beryl Castle.

P.S. Tell Laurie that we always knew that the "cat lover" was a great big softie at heart!! His account of the dog trapped in a bog had Beryl in tears.

The Kent members who attended the national AGM at Chester in March had the pleasure of meeting Beryl again. Unfortunately Alan could not make it, he was still house-bound in Sussex, finalising arrangements for the move North. At the AGM, Beryl was nominated for and elected to the National Committee. Congratulations!

Our TREASURER still has stocks of the following :-

SWEATSHIRTS.....£7-50.

TEE SHIRTS.....£4-50.

BADGES.....£1-10.

LDWA TIES.....£4-95.

Raid the housekeeping money or pilfer the piggy banks. Ted's phone number is Otford 2139.

The LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN are staging their third "MOUNTBATTEN WALKS" on

JUNE 29th 1986.

There are three distances - 7, 15 and 25 miles. Entry forms are available from our secretary or direct from the Legion at 284, The Broadway, Bexleyheath, DA6 8AN.

THE DOWNSMAN HUNDRED - May 24-26th 1986

The Kent Group have a checkpoint at Saddlescombe Farm near Pyecombe, Sussex.

This will need to be manned from midnight on Saturday to 14.30 on Sunday.

Trevor Blake is providing his caravan as a headquarters for the checkpoint.

The checkpoint crew are :- Dave Cowley (Team Captain)

Pauline Barnett

Graham James

Oliver Carter

Simon Rickards

Debbie Waddell

Ian Waddell

Win Warman

Roy Warman

Phil Hastings

JIM ODDY

Extra offers of help to spread the workload are welcome. Please contact Dave Cowley on [REDACTED].

STEPS BEYOND THE LIMITS

The words above describe the attitude to life of the pupils at Valence Scholl for the Physically Handicapped, at Westerham. It is a very apt motto for the school.

In order to raise funds for much needed specialised sports equipment for them, I have decided to undertake a Solo Challenge which I hope will interest you enough to offer assistance, where and when possible.

On September 4 - 6th, I am going to cover a circular route from Westerham, linking the North Downs Way, Saxon Shore Way, Sussex Border Path and the Wealdway. A total distance of 230 miles with a maximum time limit of 60 hours.

Already many local businesses are backing the Challenge by supplying a back-up vehicle, fuel, advertising and cash donations. Also I have had offers from running clubs to put support runners in the field. However, the most important and dangerous time will be during the two nights when I will be tired and very much dependant on my support, especially those guiding me. The speed will not be in excess of 4-5 mph, therefore I am hoping that some of you will agree to assist in guiding me over these sections. Whilst these times are most important, I would welcome any offers of support at any time during the Run.

Peter Rickards has agreed to be Run Co-ordinator, so please contact him on [REDACTED], or myself on [REDACTED], if you feel that you can help to make this a success for Valence School.

A full timetable will be sent out to all members of the Kent Group during early August.

IAN WADDELL (6618)

COVER STORY

The scene depicted on the cover of this issue is of Roseberry Topping - a dramatic landmark well known to participants in the Cleveland Classic Walk. The picture was drawn by Keith Warman.

REPORTS FROM PAST EVENTS

THE BULLOCK SMITHY - Aug 30/ Sep 1st. Colin Harris.

Somehow I got talked into entering this event by another member of the group who had second thoughts and decided against it, so I was left to walk the event solo.

When the alarm rings at 4 am., I'm wishing I had also had second thoughts, but I struggle out of bed and eventually arrive at Euston station for the 6.50 train to Stockport. On this occasion British Rail did get there and I arrive at Hazel Grove at 10.15 - and of course being in the Manchester area, it starts to rain!

The start is scheduled for 12 noon and the Mayor of Stockport gives a short speech and then strikes the anvil and walkers and runners set off in two directions!! I follow the left hand party through side streets and into open country and arrive at the first checkpoint (5 miles) at 1.15. Soon after this point comes the most difficult part of the course, I have to pass at least five pubs in Whalley Bridge during opening hours. For some reason I do not stop and press on to Edale (more rain) and Castleton. No further problems until I reach Peak Forest (23 miles) - the checkpoint is in a pub car park. I check in, have tea and jam butties, but this time I bow to temptation and a quick pint of bitter is added to the refreshments.

Darkness has fallen by the time I reach Millers Dale - the half-way point - and sitting on bales of straw drinking hot soup could encourage the weak willed to retire, but being made of sterner stuff (or going soft in the head) I continue. I pass a tent in the middle of nowhere, which happens to be the next checkpoint and marshalls are now insisting on proper dress and travelling in groups. In this situation I arrive at Earl Sterndale (for the uninitiated this is a village, not a pub) This checkpoint is situated in a chapel and upon entry walkers are greeted with a blackboard stating the day's football results and for encouragement the number of retirements from the event. At this point the female helpers are telling people to move on to Axe Edge because that's where the Massage Parlour and Dancing Girls are this year! I must be tiring because I miss these events!

Approaching the Cat and Fiddle at 3 am. an orange glow appears in the sky, this must be the first time I've been glad to see Manchester, but now comes the sting in the tail because ahead is Shining Tor. This in fact turns out to be the worst three miles of the hike, the mud seems to be a foot thick and to add to our misery the rain comes down with a vengeance. I don't believe it when I eventually find that this short section has taken me two hours. From this point (Pym's Chair) it's all downhill as dawn starts to break and navigation becomes easier. I arrive back at Hazel Grove at 8.25, exhausted but pleased that I've finished within the 24 hour limit. Overall an enjoyable but tough walk, but well worth the journey from Kent.

See you in Cheshire this September?

REPORT OF THE THIRD WEALDEN WATERS WALK - 19/20th October. Mike Smith.

At least, I think it was the Wealden Waters Walk! It was the right date, the right time and the right place, but something definitely was NOT right. As the 10 am starting time approached there was a feeling of apprehension in the air....will it?....won't it?.....

We gathered at the Pantiles to the strains of a pop band warming up (or whatever it is pop bands do) Above the noise we managed to pair up walkers

with their check cards; old acquaintances were remade, and the events of the second W.W.W. held two years previously were remembered and spoken of in hushed (dare one say, reverent ?) tones.

At 10 am. the starting bell rang andTHE SKIES FAILED TO OPEN! Oh ye of little faith! How many stayed away because of the reputation of foul weather on the W.W.W.? What was to follow was the best weather and underfoot conditions most people could remember on any walk. Very soon, walkers were stripped to the waist and wishing it was not so....WARM?....DRY?

Our hopes were raised at about 11.30 am. Just as the tailenders were clearing the Bayham Estate, there was a smattering of rain and a dark cloud was seen in the sky. But to no avail - in minutes everything was dry again. As the day wore on and it became abvuous that it was not going to rain, there came the sound of gnailing and washing of teeth (thank You, Rev. Spooner) as a certain walk organiser and some of his trusty checkpoints began to realise that this was the year to do the walk. Some of us still have the bruises from self-inflicted kicks!!

There are no horror stories this year of people falling in rivers or suffering from trench foot. The biggest hazard seemed to be dehydration; everyone was grateful to David Budd for setting up his impromptu drink-and-bickie stop between checkpoint 1 and 2. Eleven miles would have been a long way to go between drinks. Talking of drinks, the will-power on display near Wadhurst was amazing as everyone walked past that pub. Perhaps they were too busy casting spells on the route description writer for that one (honest!) wrong direction. That is the only mistake I will admit to; I know some people went wrong in other places, but all I can say is that it is sometimes difficult to follow, but many hours have been spent on writing and rewriting. I apologise if my interpretation of the landscape differs from other people's.

Some people were caught unawares by a barricade across the path on the way to Weir Wood Reservoir. A degree of panic set in when we heard about this, but upon investigation, we found that the person responsible was within his rights as we had failed to obtain permission to cross his private drive. He was perfectly reasonable about it - after all, he did put up a diversion sign. In fact he has done us a favour by showing us a short cut which avoids his property, but to anyone who was caught out or upset by the situation....SORRY!

A much more realistic pace was set this year, with the result that Checkpoints 2, 3 and 4 closed three hours earlier than before. It was apparent that the slower walkers were going faster, but strangely the later checkpoints were still waiting for a long time for the front runners, thus proving that the going definitely gets tougher beyond the 40 mile point. This is partly because of the loss of daylight and partly because of the fields and prairies of the Eden valley. It has been suggested many times that our walk is the toughest in the South, but not wishing to fall out with the organisers of the S-rr-y S-mm-ts and Thr-- F-r-sts W-y, I won't argue that one. Suffice it to say, if you enjoyed the walk, do come again and bring your friends; if you didn't enjoy it, come anyway and bring your enemies, mother-in-law and/or boss. Someone promised that in 1983, but perhaps Bristol is too far to bring them! If you were one of the unlucky ones who didn't finish, well better luck next time. Spread the word, it doesn't always rain in Kent - and help us get the entry up to 200 in 1986.

WEALDEN WATERS 1985

Some personal observations by a marshall

Check Point Team: Trevor Blake (LDWA), Bryan Clarke (LDWA), Anitra Harper, Charles Heather (LDWA), Ernie Pike.

Our team operated two check points, Nos. 1 and 4. This is easily done with plenty of time between the two. There is also time to attend the 10a.m. start at the Pantiles, load up with provisions and paperwork at the Tennis Club and arrive at Check Point 1 in good time.

Check Point 1, at 9 miles, served squash, water and small packets of biscuits. This check point at the Information and Toilet Block at Bewl Bridge Reservoir, was open from 11.45a.m. to 1.45p.m. There were a few walkers who arrived before opening time which reflected the excellent conditions and the fact that they had not restricted themselves to walking. An optional later start should satisfy those who wish to use a walking event for running/jogging.

All 87 starters passed through this check point and seemed to be in great spirits and in good condition and there were no retirements.

We used almost a 4 litre container of squash and had 3 packets of biscuits left out of 100. There is a water tap in the men's toilets but it is probably better to arrive with two large water containers full. There is a Payphone at this check point but as it was out of action we used the Payphone in the yacht club (members only!) a few hundred yards away to report to headquarters.

After the check point closed we lunched (picnicked) before moving off to Check Point 4 at Weir Wood Reservoir. Our paperwork information was passed to Check Point 2 by a roving marshall.

Check Point No. 4 at 36 miles opened at 5.45p.m. and closed at 1a.m. We arrived at Weir Wood Reservoir about 3.30p.m., parked in the car park and reported to the Yacht Club's Officer of the Day. Mr. Pendry, our contact, was not around at that time.

At 4.30p.m. with most of the yachting people gone we were able to move to the turning area in front of the Yacht Club and instal ourselves. A caravan (with awning) and a motor caravan provided four burners for cooking. The Yacht Club picnic tables and various chairs of our own were set out, this year with the dry conditions we did not use the Yacht Club dressing room as a mess but only as a rest and retirement area. Sandwiches were made, soup and water heated, tinned fruit and creamed rice set out in bowls and we were ready and waiting.

Participants came and mostly went (we had six retirements) in a fairly steady stream throughout the evening and they got through a good deal of the food. We served tea, coffee, soup, squash, water, jam sandwiches, creamed rice and tinned fruit (separately if requested). Six pints of milk, eight loaves and five jars of jam were completely consumed.

Mr. Pendry visited us during the early evening and was his usual kind and

helpful self, making sure we knew where the heaters in the dressing rooms could be switched on and where the spare paper towels and toilet rolls were kept!

The paperwork information was cross-referenced at intervals with headquarters via the Payphone in the Yacht Club (unlike Bewl Bridge there was no reserve telephone near).

Before midnight all participants had been accounted for and the six retirements were being ferried back to the Tennis Club. Our site was cleared and we moved to the car park to settle down for the night by half past one o'clock, an improvement of about two hours on previous occasions.

Next morning (before dawn) arriving anglers woke some of us and later we were all awoken by the arrival of yacht persons seeking a long day's sailing. After a massive and leisurely breakfast we left, some for home and some to the Tennis Club to return our left-overs and check point kits.

We all had a very enjoyable weekend and I think the participants (when looking back) will say the same.

Comments heard from those taking part: many thanks for a good route description (especially the large print), food and friendliness at check points. Criticisms: none heard but there must be some.

Finally our own thought: get retirements away to the Tennis Club quicker, especially if weather is bad and they are very wet/cold as well as suffering from foot rot, muscles torn/tired, clapped out, etc.

Bryan C.

A WALK ACROSS THE CHANNEL !! - 2nd. November. Graham James

Twenty four insomniacs (including four from Surrey LDWA) gathered before day-break in the Folkestone Sealink reception hall, prior to the invasion of France. The weather forecast merely stated "unsettled with scattered showers". and clearly this was not descriptive of a near gale force wind with "white horses" and a rolling sea!

Nevertheless, in true Viking tradition we boarded the Horsa and Pete Barnett, Pauline and Dave Cowley immediately made for the self-service restaurant, where Pete excelled with bacon, sausage, egg and baked beans, commenting that "mal de mer" was purely in the mind. Unfortunately, for many aboard filling the paper bag became the main pre-occupation! However, I am pleased to report our stalwart twenty four only had one or two casualties with a few more going various shades of green. Pat James had her own recipe for survival - "You're alright as long as you watch the waves." She spent the next 1½ hours doing just that!

Boulogne harbour soon came into view and half the party spent the day in visiting the fish market, the fruit and vegetable markets, cathedral, battlements numerous shops and many other attractions, including "Le Welsh Pub" where they somewhat surprisingly enjoyed very good French food.

The other half of our party, led by yours truly, journeyed westward to Henriville and Le Portel, where they were rewarded with the sight of a truly spectacular sea breaking on part of the Boulogne harbour wall. We proceeded past two

wartime forts, making relatively slow progress in almost a gale force crosswind. Young Joanna Faircloth, aged 6, ably assisted by Dad and Brian Buttifant, did exceptionally well in the conditions.

The Boulogians are not renowned for their footpaths but with a little imagination and considerable determination we made it to Equihen Plage(via the local tip and the sewage works) a picturesque village blessed with numerous cafes/bars and a successful local football team. The journey back to Boulogne was along a substantial farm track and good progress was made.

In the Champion supermarket, well stocked and a veritable Aladdin's Cave for the alcoholic, there were as many English accents as French. "Choose the booze" was the name of the game and many a Kentish rucksac strained with the weight of alcoholic bargains.

The return journey was perhaps less turbulent or were we getting used to the conditions? A tired but satisfied party arrived back at Folkestone at just before 7 pm. and many expressed a wish for a repeat next year. Interested?

THREE PEAKS WALK - 20th JANUARY 1986

Dave Cowley

Eight stalwart members of the Kent Group tackled the above walk, organised privately by John Probert. Seven of us travelled up on Friday the 19th to Studfold House in Horton in Ribblesdale. The eighth member of our party, Harry Bishop, conveniently arranged a job at Buxton and travelled across country after work. Having a couple of hours to spare before dinner, we climbed up part of Ingleborough. The ground was hard with frost and there was some debate whether to wear boots or trainers - little did we know!

On Saturday, after a very early breakfast, we arrived at the Penyghent Cafe to book in and start the walk at 07.45. It was raining hard and there was a force 5 - 6 south westerly wind blowing. As it had been raining all night, streams were in full spate.

The summit of Penyghent (2,277 ft) was reached in one hour ten minutes but alas, no glorious views, only mist, wind and rain. After the descent, we crossed open moorland. Finding a path through was very difficult due to the amount of water. I was surprised that only three members needed assistance after going knee-deep in either Black Dub or Red Moss bogs. One member took an involuntary swim in Hull Pot bec. I can remember crossing this bec in summer: only a trickle then, not the swirling two feet deep stream we encountered. If we hadn't got wet feet by the time we crossed the stream, that was soon corrected.

We took our first break in the shelter of the rail viaduct at Batty Green. Off again in a few minutes; it was too cold to hang around. We took the advised Ribbleshead approach up Whernside, passing Ribbleshead waterfall, an impressive sight. The climb up Whernside (2,415 ft) was the most hazardous of the three peaks, due to sheet ice. Great care was needed on both the climb and descent. The Old Hill pub at Chapel Le Dale was made just before closing time (14.45).

Off again in fifteen minutes to reach the summit of Ingleborough (2,372 ft) before dark. This was achieved by all of us, in spite of the mist and very wet, slippery conditions. To say the descent in darkness was very hairy would be an understatement. The footpath was frequently lost in the dark due to the amount of water flowing down the mountainside. Suffice to say the last mile and a half took us over two hours.

We finally arrived back at the cafe at 19.55, just ten minutes over twelve hours which excluded us from becoming members of the Three Peaks Club. The first priority on reaching the cafe was to ring our landlady and apologise for not being back in time for dinner at 18.30. After the obligatory pint mug of tea or coffee at the cafe and a bath, we sat down to dinner at 21.00 hours.

Summing up the walk, I think everyone enjoyed a very tough walk in atrocious weather and we would all like to thank John for organising and leading the event. We had very wet conditions on our walk. If one should walk into one of the many bogs, or slip on an icy slope without another walker being there to give assistance, the consequences could be disastrous. No-one should think of tackling this walk alone in January.

Finally, it pays to double check that you have packed all your gear before leaving home. One member left his boots at home, but luckily another colleague had brought a spare pair with him that fitted.

THE HIGH PEAK MARATHON - 28th February.

Laurie Lowe.

This event is for teams of four and the normal route covers some rugged terrain in the Peak District. The rules state that members of a team must remain together at all times and in the event of anyone dropping out, the remaining members of the team must also pull out.

This year two teams from Kent took part:-

"The Kent Kobblers" -Pete Barnett, Brian Buttifant, Ron Roweth & Ivan Verrell.

"The NorthDownsmen" :- Mike Wells, Mike Harman, John Probert and myself.

The weeks preceding the event witnessed some appalling weather in the Peak District and there were serious doubts about holding the event. Eventually we heard that it was on and so the group of eight set off at midday on Friday in two cars to travel north to Edale. When we checked in at the village hall, it was still not decided which of two alternative routes would be used (40 or 30 miles). Thirty minutes before the start we were told that it was to be the 30 mile route, thus avoiding the long, remote and exposed sections around Bleaklow. Snake Pass was still closed and this meant that it would not be possible to get support vehicles up there. The local weather forecast was for sub-zero temperatures made worse by gale force winds producing a high chill factor.

In the crowded hall we sorted out our gear, had a kit check and waited for the start at 11 pm. 45 teams were due to leave at one minute intervals. Observing the preparations of some of the locals, it was obvious that it was to be an unusual night out!! Fell runners were seen with football shin pads stitched into their socks or tights and the walkers were equiped with ice-axes and ski goggles! My apprehension grew. The only precaution that I had taken was to protect my water bottle from freezing by wrapping it in spare clothing!

The Kobblers started at 11.04 and the Northdownsmen followed at 11.06. On the first climb up to Hollins Cross, it was a picturesque scene with torches all twinkling ahead of us on the snow covered fells, but it was not to last. Soon we were struggling in deep powdery snow or slipping and sliding on the frozen crust which now covered the snow along the tops. An additional problem was that your feet would occasionally -and without warning - break through the crust and sink into the soft snow beneath. Hence the need for shin pads for protection against the hard edge of ice that continually bruised one's shins. We were travelling eastwards into the strong N.E. wind which periodically whipped tiny ice particles into your eyes - hence the need for goggles. The descent from Lose Hill gave little relief as the track became a Derbyshire version of the Cresta Run - a U-shaped gully of pure ice! The easiest and safest way down was on your backside. At one point my headlamp parted company with me and slid on ahead. Fortunately it stayed on, so that I could locate its final resting place. The next descent from Win Hill to Yorkshire Bridge via a forest track is traumatic under good conditions, so we decided to skirt to the south of the forest and we glissaded down through a field of soft deep snowdrifts. There was a scene of some confusion at the bottom, as bodies crashed through the hedgerow into the lane, and the various teams tried to reassemble themselves.

It was on the next section to High Neb that my problems really started. I suddenly developed severe cramp in what felt like every muscle in each leg. I literally ground to a halt and spent some minutes massaging my legs back to life. After a while I found that I could proceed slowly and I eventually regained contact with the other three on a relatively easy road section. However, once we started the climb to High Neb my progress became slow and erratic. The other members of the team were continually having to stop and wait for me (and getting cold in the process) After much cursing and many falls, I managed to make it to the roadside checkpoint at Moscar. It was obvious to me that I would not be able to go much further, and that it would be foolish to carry on. So I regretfully told the others that I would have to retire. This of course meant that they would also have to drop out. Imagine my feelings! It had taken me 5½ hours to cover 10½ miles!

Fortunately we arrived at Moscar at the same time as the Kobblers. Brian was also having problems, but he was willing to proceed if necessary. However, when he realised that our team was dropping out, he offered John his place in the Kobblers team. Brian and I thankfully climbed into the warmth of the support vehicle, accompanied by Mike W. and Mike H. who must have been very disappointed but were kind enough not to show it. It was a long way to travel just to walk 10½ miles!

The Northdowns/Kobblers United team battled on in conditions which did not improve. The route took them along the east side of the Ladybower and Derwent reservoirs to Slippery Stones, then S.W. to scale the treacherous slopes of Alport Castles and on through Hayridge Farm, Crookstone Barn and back to Edale. The 30 mile route took them 13½ hours, almost twice the time they might expect to complete the Sevenoaks Circular in!

We all agreed that it had been an experience none of us was likely to forget!

THE SEVENOAKS CIRCULAR WALK - 17th March.

Brian Buttifant

After this winter's snows the sun shone for the 12th annual walk, a good day with some rain later was forecast. The 30 mile route was mainly a new one, basically the eastern section of last year's route around Wrotham was replaced by using the Ide Hill area on the western side and this proved to be popular. Our thanks to Keith Warman for the new route and the clear route description.

A total of 321 walkers were set off from Knole Park at 8.45 by our chairman and the Mayor of Sevenoaks. At 10.30, 21 runners set off. The Mayor commented on the wide age differences of the entrants!

This year we were pleased to have members of the Legion of Frontiersmen doing the communications for the event, this worked out very well and it was felt this could be the beginning of a useful association for both parties. It was expected that the dry conditions would yield some fast times, and first man home was Mark Pickard in 4 hours 10 minutes. Again the youngest finisher was local Kent member Ian Scott in a very respectable 7 hours 26 minutes - not bad for a 12 year old! The oldest finisher was septuagenarian Bill Sterling, and the first lady was Debbie Thompson of Wessex. There were only 20 retirements.

About 30 group members, families and friends were actively helping to make the walk a success and with over 30 members walking, it showed a good group involvement in the event. Hopefully some of the latter will be offering help on next year's event - March 15th.

Also

WEDNESDAY 14th MAY
OAKWOOD PARK
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
MAIDSTONE

7.30 to 8pm

TICKETS £1.50

Let me know if you would
like me to get you tickets

Brian

Friday 9th May
Crayford Town Hall

**RICHARD
CRANE**

LECTURE: "Running the Himalayas"

7.30 p.m. — 10.00 p.m.

Sponsored by BLACKS CAMPING AND LEISURE PLC

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE KENT GROUP OF THE LDWA - 24th January 1986.

Held at St. Edith Hall, Kemsing.

Present: Anitra Harper, Nick Woollett, Dave Cowley, Ian & Debbie Waddell, Kevin Taylor, Gordon Beattie, Don & Ian Scott, Ivan & Susan Verrell, Win & Roy Warman, Keith & Linda Warman, Harry Bishop, Ron Roweth, Andrew Melling, Eileen & Laurie Lowe, Alan Ball, Barry Gately, Len Wilson, Graham James. Bryan Clarke, Trevor Blake, Jack Burgoyne, David Sheldrake, Colin Harris, Mike Smith, Phil Hastings, Peter Rickards, Derek Songhurst, Alan Knight, Galal Fahmy, Neil O'Rourke. Ted Laundon. Peter Barnett in the chair. Minutes taken by Brian Buttifant.

1. Apologies: Margaret & Brian Moule, Ernie & Celia Bishop, Charles Heather and John Probert.
2. Minutes of the 1985 AGM were approved by the committee at their first meeting following the AGM, these minutes were circulated as part of Newsletter no. 7.
3. There were no matters arising.
4. Secretary's Report - The meeting was given the closing membership number for 1985 as 100, the first time three figures had been reached.
During 1985 twelve social walks had been held and details, attendance and leadership were mentioned, leaders were thanked for their organisation. Two slide evenings were held, a barbecue, and the annual dinner was well attended at The George, Cranbrook. Monthly meetings at The Bricklayers Arms, Chipstead were continuing to be successful.
For the first time the national AGM was held in Kent at The Southview Hotel, Folkestone and we had the privilege of hosting the post AGM walks, after which we laid on a buffer lunch at The Valiant Sailor. This was greatly appreciated by our visitors.
Two successful events were promoted by the group during '85, the 11th Sevenoaks Circular and the third Wealden Waters.
Members had grouped together to tackle various walks such as the Three Peaks, Pre-Dales 100 walks, Dorset Duddle, Cleveland Classic, and others.
The group won the Leith Trophy in the '85 Surrey Summits with eight members completing the course, we were challenged hard so we must make sure we win decisively this year.
Members may be interested to learn that the farmland reprieved as a result of the Luddesdown Enquiry (this was under threat from the Ministry of Defence for mine laying) has now been purchased by a local landowner for agriculture.
During the year we had purchased a second hand frame tent and a Tilley lamp - both for checkpoint use.
Ian Waddell is undertaking a long charity run on Sept. 4-6th which will be 230 miles, the route will be on the following LDP's :- N.D.W., Saxon Shore Way, Sussex Border Path and Wealdway. It is hoped members will be able to give Ian support in some way.
Various items were available for sale at the meeting - T-shirts at £4.50, sweatshirts at £7.50 and a limited number of LDWA ties at £4.95.
5. Treasurer's Report - Copies of a prepared report were made available to members present, Ted Laundon read through this offering further explanations as required.
6. Election of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
Chairman - there was one nomination - Peter Barnett.
Secretary - there was one nomination - Brian Buttifant.
Treasurer - there was one nomination - Ted Laundon.
The above named were elected to these offices.

7. Election of Committee - there were 6 members nominated for the five committee places, so an election was prepared. Nominees were - Trevor Blake, Graham James, Peter Rickards, Ron Roweth, Dave Sheldrake and Keith Warman. As there were two new names being nominated, Peter Rickards asked to stand down. Jack Burgoyne, who had nominated him, went along with this decision.

8. Members Views and News.

a) The chairman mentioned that he could obtain Karhu training shoes at a discount (20% off for an order of 10 pairs) Orders should be placed with the chairman as soon as possible.

b) Attention was drawn to the checkpoint that the group will be manning on this year's Downsman 100. Location - Saddlescombe. Accommodation - Trevor's caravan. Checkpointers - Pauline Barnett, Oliver Carter, Dave Cowley, Phil Hastings, Graham James, Simon Rickards, Debbie and Ian Waddell, Win and Roy Warman. Date - May 24/25th from 12 midnight to 14.30 on the 25th.

c) Win Warman asked if the checkpointers at Otford on the Sevenoaks Circular could have the use of another urn. Peter Rickards offered to get one.

d) Mike Smith thanked all those who had helped on the 1985 Wealden Waters Walk.

e) Laurie Lowe asked if details for the proposed group walk on the Saxon Shore Way were available. The Secretary had written to the author of the guide book, and a reply was awaited.

f) Phil Hastings spoke of his difficulty, having no transport, of getting to group walks and other events. Obviously other group members in a similar position were also effected. Near members to Phil offered lifts. The Secretary offered to put walk leaders' telephone numbers in the future programmes. Members with their own transport were asked to consider these 'car less' walkers.

g) Graham James raised the possibilities of life membership and asked for views. It was felt this would raise money quickly which would bring us to the attention of the tax man. There were also the problems of keeping in touch e.g. change of address, death.

h) Ian Waddell raised the question of footpath clearance and felt we should get involved in this work. Mike Smith felt we should certainly do clearance on the routes of the events we organise. Some members already offered their services to local footpath groups, for they should be the people who know the local details e.g. correct line of path, landowner, and these groups would arrange insurance for their working parties. The chairman said the committee would take another look at our involvement in clearance work.

This then concluded the business for the evening and some of our ladies served coffee and biscuits.

Brian Buttifant, Secretary.

STOP PRESS..... It is good to see over thirty members are entered for this year's Downsman 100. This is twice the normal numbers. We wish them all success.

Brian Buttifant.