



LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

Kent Group

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

NEWSLETTER



THE VETERAN
CAMPAIGNER.

Barry N. Bishop.

Number 15.

April 1988

KENT GROUP NEWSLETTER -- APRIL 1988

CHAIRMAN :- Peter Barnett

SECRETARY :- David Sheldrake

TREASURER :- Ron Roweth

COMMITTEE MEMBERS :-	Bryan Clarke	Peter Rickards
	Laurie Lowe	Susan Verrell
	Jim Oddy	John Vinells

NEWSLETTER EDITOR :- Laurie Lowe

PROGRAMME DETAILS

- April 17 A Walk in 1066 Country. Distance 20 miles. Start from Robertsbridge Station at 9 am. Leader is Mike Smith. Tel. [REDACTED].
- May 14 A 20 mile walk from Hawkhurst. Meet in town car park GR 763 305 at 8.30 am. Led by Maurice Faircloth. Tel. [REDACTED].
- May 19 Evening Walk. Meet at Meopham Green at 7 pm for 7 - 8 miles, returning to Meopham for a night cap. Leaders Trevor Blake, [REDACTED] and Jim Oddy.
- June 9 Evening Walk. Meet on the Green at Westerham at 7 pm. Led by Alan Ball.
- June 19 The Winter Night Walk is being repeated in daylight for all those who do not like the dark (or the mud) Meet in the car park behind the Foresters Arms, Forest Row at 9 am. for this 20 mile walk. Leader Peter Barnett. [REDACTED].
- July 17 Kemsing Kapers. Meet Kemsing car park for a 9 am start. A figure of eight route of approx. 20 miles. Lunch stop at The Bell in Kemsing. Led by Brian Buttifant [REDACTED] and Dave Cowley.
- July 24 Andredsweald Circuit - See Strider for details.
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GROUP SALES

Our new secretary has asked me to remind you that he has the following for sale :-

GROUP BADGES (cloth)£1-10 each

Tee-Shirts (with group logo).....£4-50 each

Contact Dave Sheldrake for sizes available

LDWA KENT GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Held at St Edith Hall, Kemsing - January 29, 1988.

PRESENT - Tom & Eileen Emery, Margaret Moule, Alan Ball, John Chapman, Neal O'Rourke, Paul Hatcher, John Probert, Ken Heath, Pamela Prince, Dave Cowley, Peter Rickards, Keith Porter, Andrew Melling, Harry Bishop, Philip Wheele, Trevor Blake, Anitra Harper, Bryan Clarke, Don Scott, David Sheldrake, Jim Oddy, Win & Roy Warman, Susan & Ivan Verrell, Eileen & Laurie Lowe, Pauline Barnett, Gordon Beattie, Linda & Keith Warman, Peter Barnett (chairman) Ron Roweth (treasurer) Brian Buttifant (secretary) John Vinells.

1. Apologies for Absence:- Alan Knight, Len Wilson, Maurice Faircloth, Harold Mann, Derek Songhurst, Phil Hastings, Martyn Berry, Colin Harris, Charles Heather, Paul Bourne, Val & Mike Brissenden.

2. The Minutes of the 1987 AGM - These were approved by the committee as agreed, and circulated to members.

3. Matters Arising - There were none.

4. Secretary's Report - The membership remains at just over 100, and our activities are flourishing thanks to the organisers of these activities during 1987 :-

Feb	Night Walk from Charing (postponed from January because of heavy snow) Led by Peter Barnett & Laurie Lowe.	
Feb	N.E. Kent Walk	Trevor Blake
Feb	Slide Evening	Keith Potter (R.A.)
March	Sevenoaks Circular	Brian Buttifant
April	Trossley Walk	David Sheldrake
May	Maidstone Circular	Peter Barnett
May	Evening Walk	Alan Ball
June	Evening Darent Dawdle	Laurie Lowe
June	Windmill Walkabout	Keith Warman
July	Greensand Way Extension	Paul Hatcher
Sept	Welsh Weekend	Pauline & Peter Barnett
Oct	Wealden Waters Walk	Mike Smith
	Night walk in Daylight	Peter Barnett & Laurie Lowe
Nov	French Day-Trip	Graham James
	Lunch Walk	Peter Rickards
	Drinks Evening	Peter Rickards

A film show, scheduled to be held at Kemsing, was cancelled as a result of Kemsing being 'blackened out' for two weeks because of the October hurricane.

As members will know, Sevenoaks area was the worst hit and what devastation and havoc to our footpaths ! Our thoughts turned quickly to the Sevenoaks Circular route. This was surveyed to assess the damage, thanks largely to John Vinells.

Members continue to be active around the event circuit and the group retained the Leith Trophy for the third successive year in the Surrey Summits. We are now well established in the annual one hundred mile event, with approx. 14 completing the course. Most notable was Peter Rickards, who completed his 10th success in this event.

We have made contact with Raynet, the national radio volunteer communication group, and we are hopeful that they will be giving their services on the Sevenoaks Circular.

We continue our affiliation to the Ramblers Association and are notified of their Kent AGM at Maidstone on February 13th at 2.30 pm.

Finally, as this is my 10th year in office, and we have another nominee for this post, I think this is a good time to step down and wish every success to my successor.

5. Treasurer's Report - A written statement of account for 1987 was circulated to members present at the meeting. No questions to the treasurer indicated that members were satisfied with the healthy accounts.

6. Propositions - The Chairman spoke of how the Secretary's work load had increased over the last few years, and suggested a new position of Liaison Officer to deal with such matters as councils, landowners, Ramblers Association, Sports Council, and other similar bodies. A proposal could not be tabled at this meeting due to insufficient notice. The meeting agreed in principal and the committee has the power to co-opt.

7. Election of Officers

Chairman - There was one nomination - Peter Barnett, who was proposed by Laurie Lowe and seconded by Eileen Lowe. Peter was duly elected.

Secretary - Dave Cowley withdrew his nomination for Brian Buttifant. There was one nomination for David Sheldrake, proposed by Peter Barnett and seconded by Bryan Clarke. David was duly elected.

Treasurer - Ron Roweth was proposed by Brian Buttifant and seconded by Roy Warman. There being no other nominee, Ron was duly elected.

Election of Committee - The following members were proposed and seconded for the 1988 committee:-
Bryan Clarke
Laurie Lowe
Jim Oddy
Peter Rickards
Susan Verrell
John Vinells

As this is the number required for the committee, the above were elected en bloc.

9. Members views and News.

The Chairman read a letter from Sandpit Lane Combined Centre requesting our assistance in fund raising to help them buy a new mini-bus to enable them to get about, a number are wheelchair bound. As this is a local authority centre in South London (manager Peter Rickards) funding is extremely tight, hence this letter seeking assistance. Their old vehicle has been used by the group on a few occasions and is now nearing exhaustion. Anyone willing to raise sponsorship for them should contact Peter Rickards.

Dave Cowley asked the committee to look again at the question of family membership.

The walks programme from April to July had just been sent for inclusion in Strider no. 50, and was read out at the meeting. Alan Ball offered to lead an evening walk on June 9th, meeting at The Green, Westerham at 7pm.

Brian Buttifant asked for names for help on the Sevenoaks Circular checkpoints on March 20th, and also for one or two path clearance working parties. Dates to be announced.

Peter Rickards asked the meeting if there would be any interest in having a dinner-dance. There seemed to be an interest.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Brian Buttifant

RUNNING A CHECKPOINT

Laurie Lowe

I have been asked to write an article giving advice to those people who willingly give their time to organise and run the checkpoints which are such an important feature of the challenge walks put on by the Kent Group.

In thinking of what advice needs to be given, I am aware of two problems. First, many of our members are very experienced in marshalling and probably could give me advice! Second, the requirements (and problems) vary according to the type of event being run i.e. organising a CP for a couple of hours in daylight on a 30 mile event such as the Sevenoaks Circular is very different to being on duty all through an October night as happens during the Wealden Waters Walk. My introduction to the pleasures of marshalling came in 1982 when we were responsible for checkpoint 9 (near Hollingbourne) on the Pilgrims Hundred. On that occasion we were on duty for 24 hours and the last two walkers had to wake us from our slumbers to get their cards stamped!

Much of the advice given below originates from that event. Peter Rickards produced a set of notes for marshals and I subsequently modified and re-issued them for our first Wealden Waters Walk.

For anyone who has never helped at a checkpoint but who thinks that they might like to offer their services - let me re-assure you. You do not have to provide the refreshments out of your own pocket! The event organiser will provide all food, drinks, disposable cups, dishes, plastic spoons and even rubbish bags. He will also advise you as to what facilities are available at the site of the checkpoint i.e. water supply, kitchen facilities, etc. You may also be supplied with large water containers, gas cooker, gas boiler, etc, depending on what the local facilities are and what refreshments are planned for the walkers.

However, it is obvious that you will need a number of extra items to make your task easier and more efficient. The list below is - I hope - fairly comprehensive. Not all the items listed will be needed on all CPs, the list is intended only as a checklist. When your turn comes to marshal, refer to the list and select those items which you think you will need.

Folding chairs/stools	Torches
Tables	First aid kit
Teapots	Hose for filling water containers
Thermos flasks	Tin openers
Matches	Serving spoons
Plenty of warm clothing	Large plates
Waterproofs	Trays
Blankets/sleeping bags (for exhausted walkers awaiting transport)	Knives
Containers for mixing cold drinks	Extension lead
Washing up bowl/bucket	Electric kettles
Detergent	Plastic sheeting to protect hall floor from muddy boots
Tea towels	

A checkpoint usually serves two functions:-

1. To record the arrival and progress of walkers. This may require the clipping of checkcards and will involve recording walkers' numbers as they turn up. It is normal to record the numbers in the order of arrival at the CP, and later to transfer these numbers to a master checklist. This list serves as a safety check and is especially important on the long walks which continue through the hours of darkness. A comparison of the checklists from successive CPs will at least locate where a walker has gone missing.
2. To provide food, drink, encouragement and (rarely) simple first aid such as dealing with blisters. It is important to give some thought to ensuring that the food and drink is ready at all times. It is annoying for a walker to arrive gasping for a cup of tea and have to wait while a fresh pot is made ! Freshly made tea can be decanted into a vacuum flask where it will stay hot but not become stewed. Likewise, a constant supply of hot water (from a pump-action vacuum flask) will provide 'instant' coffee when required. Cold drinks should be made up in bulk and dispensed into disposable cups before the first walkers arrive. This may seem obvious, but I recently experienced an event (not in Kent!) where each walker arriving was asked what he would like to eat and drink, whereupon the helper disappeared into the kitchen and made up each individual order ! This proved such a slow process that most walkers departed without any refreshment and somewhat disgruntled.

Please try to be at your checkpoint location about 1 hour before the opening time, so that you can get set up ready to check people through. As soon as possible, find your nearest phone just in case you need to contact central control. Some checkpoints will be near houses, so please respect their privacy, and particularly keep noise to a minimum at night.

Many people think that checkpoint marshalling is more arduous than actually walking. Both marshals and walkers are often under similar stress, i.e. long hours of concentration and lack of sleep, plus possible discomfort due to adverse weather conditions. Our jobs as marshals are to record the arrival of each walker at the checkpoint and to provide sustenance and cheer as quickly as possible. Sometimes some of the walkers are brusque and a little irritable due to fatigue, discomfort or perhaps disappointment at their own performance. Please allow for this even if you are tired yourself. After the event all walkers will feel gratitude for the efforts of the marshals.

Finally, a word to all people who regularly take part in challenge walks. Try to get into the habit of always thanking the people manning a checkpoint as you leave on your way to yet another successful completion inside the time limit.

WEALDEN WATERS WALK - October 1987.

Comments from Bryan Clarke

Our team ("gang") of four - Trevor Blake, Anitra Harper, Ernie Pike and myself - opened Checkpoint 1 at Bewl Water at the appointed time and as is usual, checked in the half a dozen or so "walkers" who had arrived early. The rain was increasing steadily at this time and with the permission of a Water Authority man, we used an empty marquee as a dry checkpoint.

Two people retired from the walk here (the first time this has happened, I think) Squash and biscuits were served. 84 walkers arrived and 82 left for checkpoint 2.

Closing the checkpoint, we then transferred to checkpoint 4 at Weir Wood via the Tunbridge Wells Tennis Club (HQ) to hand in the CP1 paperwork. After a stop at the supermarket in Forest Row, we arrived in the Weir Wood car park and feasted on fried egg and kipper sandwiches in Trevor's caravan which he had parked there before going to Bewl Water. As the Yacht Club people departed we transferred to the area in front of the club and prepared CP4, making jam sandwiches, marmite sandwiches and soup. At opening time we were ready but it was a long time before the first walkers arrived. Mr G. Pendry, the Yacht Club president, visited us and was as usual kind and helpful. He also called the following morning to check that all had gone well.

The rain continued all evening but eventually around midnight the sky cleared and by 1 am., when we were due to close, it could almost be described as pleasant. We had 44 arrivals and 37 departures. The 7 retirements were ferried back to HQ by roving marshals and after a final check over the phone with Ron at HQ, we were able to bed down in the warmth of the Club lounge at about 2.30 am.

Up at 8 in the morning, we dismantled our checkpoint in brilliant sunshine and went to the car park which was rapidly filling with the cars of sailors (the anglers usually arrive before dawn) and consumed a massive breakfast of sausages, bacon, eggs, tomatoes, mushrooms and baked beans. The supermarket in Forest Row must have an annual sales peak at the time of the Wealden Water Walk ! Returning to HQ, we helped clear up and welcome the last few walkers to finish.

Another very enjoyable weekend had come to an end.

WEALDEN WATERS WALK

Comments from Laurie Lowe

Having previously been involved with the marshalling side of the WWW, this year I was 'encouraged' to walk the event. I had completed two marshals' walk-outs but they were held in August - October is something different!

It was with the usual foreboding that I watched the depressions build up in the Atlantic during the days preceding the weekend. Several of the smaller depressions had already arrived and thus ensured that the countryside of the Weald was fully saturated, so when the weekend rain came, flooding was to be inevitable.

Saturday was a strange day from the walker's point of view. The light never changed. From the start at 10 am, through to late afternoon, the light level remained constant i.e. very dull, and this left one with no feeling for the passing of time. The forest track leading down to Bayham Abbey had streams running across it, as water cascaded from the high ground on the left to the lower level on our right. The marquee at CP 1 was a welcome respite. Bowles Rocks CP was also a haven - hot drinks and a change of clothes for me.

At one point I remember crossing a ploughed field only some ten yards behind another walker, but even so, his footprints were filling with water before I reached them! I just made it to the Bowls Club hut as dusk fell. Margaret and Brian made us very comfortable, while I plucked up the effort required to go back out into the night.

The rain did eventually cease - around midnight, I believe - but the damage was done! The Medway had burst its banks and in several places hasty diversions had to be organised to steer walkers away from a possible watery grave. Here the Kent organisation excelled. New directions to avoid the floods were available at CPs and I believe all walkers found their way along the new routes in safety. At New Barns Farm, Gordon Beattie re-wrote the route description for us while we were fed and watered. The long, long road section through Edenbridge to Four Elms seemed never-ending, but looking at the map afterwards, it does not seem to have added much in distance. It was an eerie sensation walking along the lane towards Chiddingstone. The sky had cleared and mist was rising from the flooded fields on either side. Somewhere over to our right the footpath that we should have been on lay submerged under acres of deep water.

It was strange for me to arrive at Bough Beech CP as a walker and not, as in previous years, as a marshal. The familiar flashing light was a welcome sight, but I could not face Eileen's offer of a hotdog at that time in the early hours of the morning. There were so many left over, we had Toad-in -the-Hole all the following week!

The weather still had a few surprises for us. At Penshurst - as dawn and the first flights into Gatwick arrived - a dark cloud obscured the clear sky to the South. When we were at the highest point for miles around, the cloud aimed several flashes of lightning at us and then went on its way!

Swaylands - Peter Kickards and several cups of fizzy lemonade to settle the upset stomach (it had been one of those nights) As we left, Peter gave us what seemed to my tired mind, incredibly complicated instructions on how to avoid the next flooded section. My companions made sense of the advice and we progressed safely by road and tracks to the Speldhurst area. By this time I had perked up and said that from here it was a doddle, and promptly led our small group (who had been together all night) off course, thus adding another half mile to our total distance!

It was with considerable relief that we arrived back at the Tennis Club with its hot showers, hot drinks and food. Our time was 23 hours 20 minutes for the 63 miles - not exactly fast, but we agreed we were happy just to have survived!

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION MAPS

Brian Buttifant has obtained two local maps produced by the RA. They are 1 : 25,000 scale and show in great detail all rights of way within the old Sevenoaks District Council area. Sheet no. 1 covers the Southern section and sheet no. 2 the Northern section. Both sheets are available from Brian at 50p each.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES :- The Army has gone beyond developing yet another boot - now it's working on an official issue trainer shoe. Recruits these days, said a supervising officer on the project, 'come straight from the womb wearing trainers', and many boys have seldom worn anything else right through schooldays.....

The OBSERVER, 21/2/88

GROUNDED.....

.....Harry Bishop

I was off to the Dorset Doddle
Sunday morning last,
When this bloomin' blood vessel burst,
So it was away to hospital - P.D.Q.
Feet first.

Plugged up,
Now rest,
Forget the zest,
Of climbing great chalk cliffs
You won't see Lulworth Cove this year
Or sample Badger's Beer.

Won't slip and slid round Chapman's Pool
or haul up Durlston Head,
I'm scuppered in ward E.N.T.
On a magic carpet bed.

For in this bed I close my eyes
And dream of this year's days
Where I've yomped and stomped some new
found trails,
And tramped the old known ways.

Bedevelled here on a patient's pad,
I'll paint my picture, not be sad.

A Winter Tanners Marathon
(The snowed off one I mean)
Where Jim and me,
Waded through the stuff,
Until it did for him
In a crustless four foot drift of snow,
On a path 'twixt wire and tree
He pulled a muscle in his leg,
He's only 5' 3" !

The Punchbowl next and gone once more
An early herald to the new Spring's door.

For sure you will remember,
That Surrey Summit's mud,
And bless dear Milton Cottage,
The shelter which gave hope
In countryside,
Weeping, weeping,
Where many couldn't cope.

A rusty period then set in,
Rejected Tryfan's view,
But came back upon the Malvern,
(I'd lost a screw or two !)

For the line of hills
Were all still there,
You'd better be in your prime
Or like me, after ten weeks lay off,
Lie down from time to time!

But Di and John had seen me through
So I thought I'd have a crack
At Derby's White Peak Marathon
And do Rottingdean on the way back.

Enthuse about the White Peak,
It's a lovely littered land,
Of limestone walls and outcrops,
Laid out by a master's hand.

Its Dales upon a summer's day -
Ravines clothed in green,
Cascades and streams,
Pursue their paths,
Bedeck my raptured dream.

Rottingdean, hot and dusty
On a bursting, thirsty day,
Where cheery Les pointed up the hill,
"Upon the other side", he said
"You'll find my fellow marshals,
They're quaffing pints at a hostelry
Ask them, beg them nicely
To send one back for me!"

A few weeks went by
To get shipshape,
In garden, house and home,
But it's off once more and away from
towns
To the well worn paths of those rolling
Downs.

'Twas Petworth, Bury Hill and Roman Villa,
On one fine day
And R.M.P. the next,
Six thousand souls a-pounding
Those paths are sorely vexed.

Some friends came down from Yorkshire
The following weekend,
I took them through the Boxhill ways,
To West Humble (and the pub)
To Headley Heath and a cricket match,
With of course - some ice cream tubs!

A super day, some jungly ways
A Surrey day to remember,
I hope they send me out quite soon
'Cos I'm worried they'll dismember.

I'd do alright without my nose
But I need it's true, a throat,
I certainly want these dear old legs
For I've many more miles to cope.

P.S.

The wife and her mother have come to see me,
On a miserable wet afternoon,
They throw me an odd word of comfort
But they'll have to go pretty soon
For with their phantom yellow band black caps on,
They're a damn sight more concerned,
With vehicles five floors below
And wrong parking moves discerned !

Harry Bishop
31/8/87

A SNOWDON WEEKEND

by John Probert (524)

On the 19th February, having stayed overnight at Dave Sheldrake's, Paul Bourne, Dave and I set out for a long weekend in Wales. We had a good drive down to Wales and made camp at the Forestry camping site just outside Beddgelert, putting the tents up as soon as possible in order to get on with the walking. We were soon dressed and heading for Moel Hebog at 782 metres. A very hard climb after being cramped up in the car for 6 hours, but very enjoyable - returning by way of Moel yr Ogof and the Beddgelert Forest. It was not easy to find one's way in the forest after the forestry workers had been tree-throwing all day. However, we did survive to cook dinner and adjourn to the local tavern for a pint and then back to the tents for sippers from John's famous Grouse (and for those who have back-packed with John, you will know how well one sleeps after that !

Saturday saw us on the move at 6 am. sharp and heading for the Snowdon Horseshoe after the usual breakfast and camp chores. We were only just in time to get into the car park opposite the YHA at Pen y Pass as the world and his wife were out to enjoy the weekend. Quickly we donned our boots and rucksacs complete with ice axe and crampons. I was given a good wiggling by the leader of our expedition as I had left my map back at the tent. He thought that I was very irresponsible, but then who needs a map on the Snowdon Horseshoe (if you are able to see more than 10 yards, you are OK) Away then on the Pyg track to the enormous climb to the top of Crib Goch at 921 m. Sadly a young lad fell and was killed here the week before and was being brought down as Paul's party was going up. It had obviously upset Paul and it was quite evident in his approach to Crib Goch, but after careful climbing he made out very well.

Pushing on over snow and ice, and a bit of hoar frost, we finally made it to the Snowdon Railway and the summit. A quick photo session at the trig. and a bite to eat and we were off again after fitting crampons and descended an almost vertical approach to the Watkin Path and then climbed the East peak and Lliwed Bach and dropped down to Cym Dyli and Llyn Llydaw, with an easy stroll back to the car park. All professed it had been an easy day and most enjoyable (in fact it was a very hard day and we all slept well that night) Getting back to the car, it was suggested that we hit town and try the food at 'Peat's Eats'. Looking in from the High Street, it seemed a scruffy sort of place, but it was

well-packed, with a queue to the pavement, so the food had to be good ! It was and plenty of it with big mugs of tea. Very cheap and strongly recommended. After dinner at Peat's, we decided to try the showers back at camp and get into some casuals ready for the hostelry again, there being nothing else to do in camp after dark. The showers were stone-cold but very refreshing once one had been able to warm up about an hour afterwards. So back to camp and another night's sleep. I did hear David complaining on Sunday morning about how uncomfortable he had been, perhaps my measure of Grouse had been on the generous side - I slept like a log !

Sunday morning started off clear at 6.30 am and after a hearty breakfast, we set off for the heights of Tryfan, most of which is owned by the National Trust. Another good hard climb to the South peak and queueing up with 50 or so others for the next pitch and dropping down to Bwlch Tryfan with the intention of climbing Bristly Ridge. However, we saw at the side of the ridge a snow and ice climb of about 300 m, so we quickly donned crampons and front-pointed our way up with the additional aid of the ice axe. Scorning the easy way to the top, we pressed on to an almost vertical exit to the Glyder Plateau. No time to hang about as I want to be down to cook by daylight. We head for the Cantilever Stone and the Devil's Kitchen, dropping down towards Llyn Idwal to be confronted by 300 m of soft snow - too soft for crampons - so after stomping a foothold, we decided to sit down and toboggan on the seats of our pants, making good use of the ice axes to brake to stops on the way down and getting thoroughly wet through in the process. On then to Llyn Ogwen and a long walk back to the car on the A5. Back to camp and dinner (missing out on the pub and showers) Into the sleeper for a well-earned early night.

All too soon Monday morning was with us and we broke camp and headed for the slate mine at Llanberis with its very deep pits and iron ladders, abandoned machinery and underground tunnels that you would not get me into for a king's ransom ! Pub time again and a very good cheap meal with a pint to see us on our way home. I slept most of the way and was only woken once by David's bad language when a suicidal driver cut in front of us at around 70 mph on a left hand bend, while trying to avoid oncoming traffic. However, we did arrive home safely and after such a perfect weekend there is absolutely no need to sum up - "Thanks Dave and Paul."

FOOTPATH CLEARANCE

Brian Buttifant expresses his thanks to the volunteers who took part on the four occasions when working parties tackled tree clearance on sections of the Sevenoaks Circular route

.....but (don't go away !), it is very likely that more clearance work will be called for in preparation for the Wealden Waters Walk to be held in October. So be prepared to spend a summer's day (or two) tackling damage in the Weald area. You might be lucky and get free drinks at the pub ! Chain-saws are not allowed on these outings.