

KENT GROUP NEWSLETTER -- AUGUST 1988

NUMBER 16

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

Sunday September 11th

22 miles from Lamberhurst. Meet in car park just off the A21 (GR 676 362) at 9am. Pub lunch. Leader is Dave Sheldrake. Tel. [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

Sat/Sun October 8/9th

Wealden Waters Walk. This is the group's 100 km event. Full details are in Strider. Help is needed for marshalling at checkpoints, drivers to work in conjunction with CP's to pick up drop-outs, and also to help out at the walk headquarters. Please contact Mike Smith [REDACTED] or Laurie Lowe [REDACTED] as soon as possible.

Thursday November 17th

Slide Evening at the Kelsey Arms, Tonbridge Wells (GR 582 405) A talk entitled "Walking in France" will be given by Brian Haigh of the Surrey group. Meet at 7.30 for 8. Private room above bar.

Sunday November 27th

Family Lunch Walk at Donnington Manor. A short, gentle walk for all the family before returning for lunch at 2 pm. Details and bookings from Peter Rickards [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Friday December 16th

Pre-Christmas drinks at The Bull, Otford. 7.30 onwards. Free sandwiches, but you pay for your own drinks!

Friday January 13th

Winter Night Walk in the Thames / Medway estuary area. This is the one you have all been waiting for! Are you willing to chance a night walk in mid-winter on Friday the 13th?! Contact Peter Barnett [REDACTED] [REDACTED] or Laurie Lowe [REDACTED] for details nearer the date.

Friday January 27th

Group AGM at St Edith Hall, Kemsing, nr Sevenoaks. Further details and nomination forms will be sent to all paid up members nearer the date. 7.30 for prompt 8 pm start.

DAMP ON DARTMOOR

by Bryan Clarke

Our group arrived at Lydford Campsite on Friday afternoon and we set up our tents and settled ourselves in. The following day was spent seeing the sights of Morwellham which is being restored to something like it was in Victorian times. A very interesting place and included in the admission price was a train trip into an old copper mine. The weather was tremendous and we looked forward to the following day's walk and hoped it would not be too hot.

Six smiling walkers set out at seven o'clock on Sunday morning for the walk from Lydford to Postbridge via the letterbox at Cranmere Pool and return by a different route. The weather forecast was "warm with local showers", so one of the group decided not to carry his wet weather gear.

There was a little mist in the distance but it was mild and we soon became very warm going up to the first objective of Widgery Cross on Brat Tor. A pause for photographs and a look back at the mist over Lydford and our campsite there. Down next, then up again to pass to the left of Rattlebrook Hill. A little rain began. We set course for Great Kneeset and stumbled on over the very rough terrain. The rain became a little heavier.

Passing Great Kneeset, we went towards Cranmere Pool to visit the letterbox there. It rained steadily. The ground became almost bog with some firmer winding patches and we became spread out across about 200 yards, but even so we missed the letterbox. By about 100 yards we think. The rain rained.

We continued in an easterly direction and eventually we crossed the footbridge over the North Teign River and turned south to Postbridge. The rain lessened but a light breeze became apparent and the person who had believed the weather forecast began to feel chilly, especially his arms and hands, particularly when at a standstill.

Six soaking wet but smiling strollers arrived in the Information Centre carpark at Postbridge and warmed up with a hot pasty from the local shop and a hot drink from the back of our supporters car. Enthusiasm for the return walk to Lydford had gone, so we were ferried back to the campsite for super hot showers and then off for some sight-seeing.

A grand weekend, but our conclusion is not to trust the weather on Dartmoor and not to venture out alone.

"COME ON YOU KENT GROUP!"

By John Probert (524)

Our newsletter - as you know - is the news and views of what is going on in the Kent Group, or what the Group members are doing. We have over a hundred members in the Group and the newsletter could be a hundred page publication instead of the piddling ten pages of issue no. 15.

It must be very disappointing for the Editor to get so little support and to have to resort to writing his own articles. Usually the editor confines himself to a front page comment or a brief comment at the end of an article if it is required.

There was a move to put the membership fee up to £5 at one time and various comments were heard about how little we get for our money but there was no mention of it by anyone in the newsletter. Perhaps a members comments page would be in order.

Your English does not have to be up to university standard, as you will realise when you read some of the poetry which is printed (oops, sorry Harry) but at least Harry does - to coin a stupid phrase - "put pen to paper" This is more than the other 90-odd members do!

The newsletter can only be what we make it and if the standard does not improve we may as well do without it. So come on you Kent Group, let's be hearing from you!

Nicely put John! So let me have your comments, views and experiences of walks. If you think we can do without the newsletter then say so, if you feel it worth keeping, then contribute! Your contribution does not have to be a masterpiece of English literature, and it need not be neatly typed. It does help if your handwriting is more or less legible! After several years of practice, I can almost decipher John's writing!

You can give me your contributions at the regular Tuesday meetings, or post them to me at [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. If you have not got a pen or pencil, then phone me on [REDACTED] and dictate the piece! Laurie.

" FIRST TUESDAY PUB MEETINGS "

At the present time it looks as if we may have to quit the Bricklayers Arms venue for these monthly meetings. We will probably be able to continue meeting at Chipstead until September or possibly October. Meanwhile, alternative accomodation is being sought in the general Sevenoaks area and members will be informed once this is finalised.

Kentish Times, June 9, 1988

Trevor trudges for charity

LONG DISTANCE walker Trevor Blake, of Green Street Green, walked non stop for 100 miles to raise funds for charity.

Trevor, a founder member of the Darenth Strollers, took part in the White Peak Hundred on May 28 and 29, completing the gruelling course in 35 hours 59 minutes. He hopes his

efforts will bring in at least £300

It was the fourth time Trevor had taken part in the walk — previous events have raised more than £1,300 towards the treatment of children suffering from Scoliosis (curvature of the spine).

"I am still hoping for further donations towards this much needed char-

ity," said Trevor, who chose to support it after learning about the problems of Scoliosis from a work colleague.

"Local firms have been very generous," he added. "West Wickham Transport of Darenth have given me a cheque for £50 each year I have taken part," he said.