

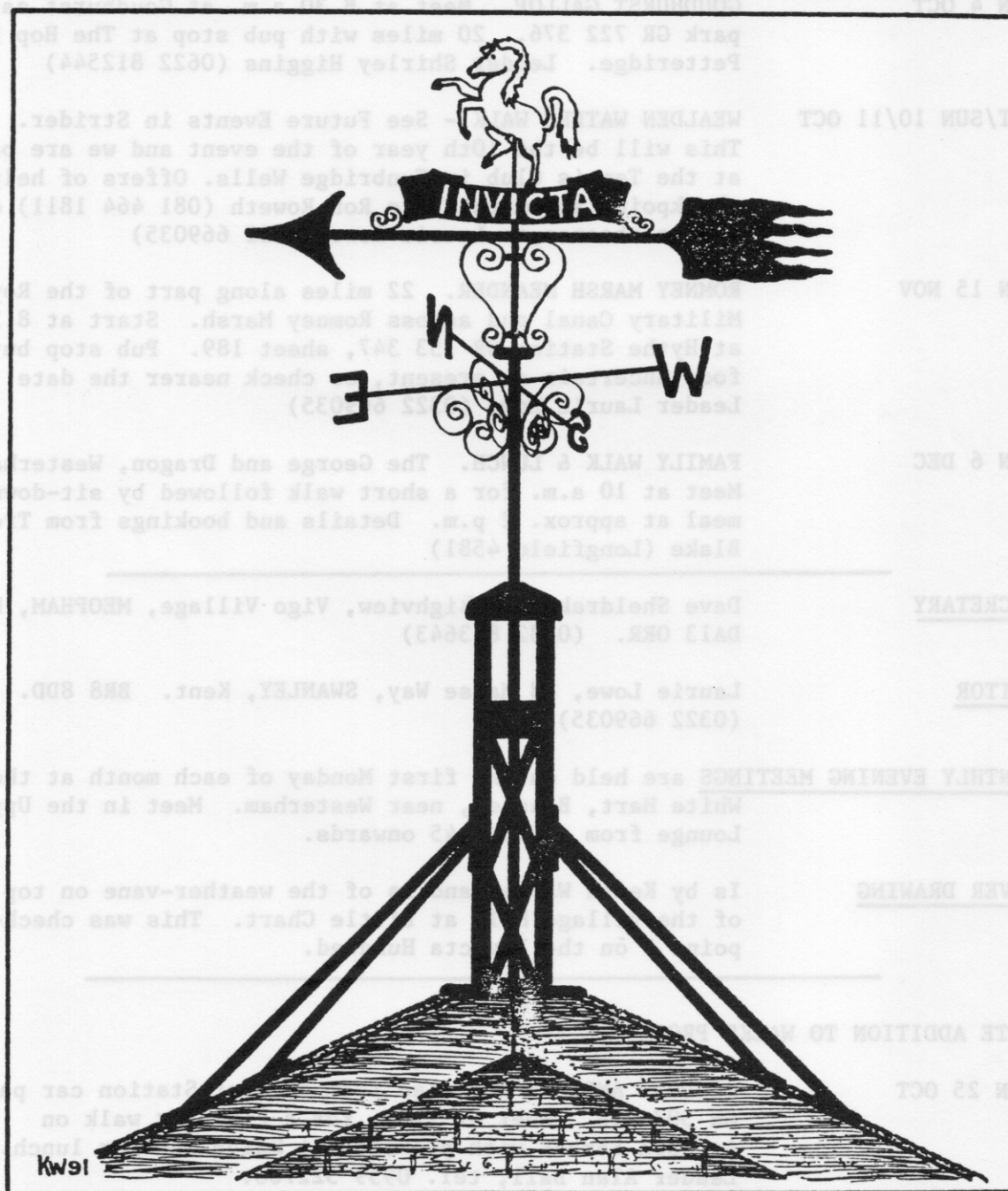


LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

Kent Group

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

NEWSLETTER



INVICTA HUNDRED - SPECIAL ISSUE - AUGUST 1992

NUMBER 28

COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN.....PETER BARNETT
TREASURER.....RON ROWETH
SECRETARY.....DAVID SHELDRAKE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS..BRIAN BUTTIFANT
TREVOR BLAKE
BRYAN CLARKE
PAMELA PRINCE
NEAL O'ROURKE

KENT GROUP PROGRAMME TO DECEMBER 1992

SAT/SUN 22/23 AUG. WEALDEN WATERS MARSHALS' WALK. An opportunity for helpers on the day to do the walk. Contact Peter Barnett on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for details.

SUN 6 SEPT AN ALTERNATIVE ABBREVIATED (ALLITERATIVE) ANDREDSWEALD AMBLE. Meet 9 a.m. Forest Row car park, GR425 351. Approx 20 miles. Leader Tom Sinclair [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

SUN 4 OCT GOUDHURST GALLOP. Meet at 8.30 a.m. at Goudhurst car park GR 722 376. 20 miles with pub stop at The Hop Bine, Petteridge. Leader Shirley Higgins [REDACTED]

SAT/SUN 10/11 OCT WEALDEN WATERS WALK - See Future Events in Strider. This will be the 10th year of the event and we are back at the Tennis Club in Tunbridge Wells. Offers of help to checkpoint and marshal to Ron Roweth [REDACTED] [REDACTED] or, in his absence, to Laurie Lowe [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

SUN 15 NOV ROMNEY MARSH MEANDER. 22 miles along part of the Royal Military Canal and across Romney Marsh. Start at 8.30 a.m. at Hythe Station GR 153 347, sheet 189. Pub stop but food uncertain at present, so check nearer the date. Leader Laurie Lowe [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

SUN 6 DEC FAMILY WALK & LUNCH. The George and Dragon, Westerham. Meet at 10 a.m. for a short walk followed by sit-down meal at approx. 2 p.m. Details and bookings from Trevor Blake [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

SECRETARY

Dave Sheldrake, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

EDITOR

Laurie Lowe, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

MONTHLY EVENING MEETINGS are held on the first Monday of each month at the White Hart, Brasted, near Westerham. Meet in the Upper Lounge from about 7.45 onwards.

COVER DRAWING

Is by Keith Warman and is of the weather-vane on top of the village hall at Little Chart. This was checkpoint 3 on the Invicta Hundred.

LATE ADDITION TO WALKS PROGRAMME :-

SUN 25 OCT ASHDOWN AMBLE - 20 miles from Ashurst Station car park. GR 507 388. Meet at 9a.m. for a circular walk on Ashdown Forest with pub stop at Hatch Inn for lunch. Leader Alan Ball, [REDACTED].

EDITORIAL - No Kent Group member can still be unaware of the Invicta Hundred which took place over the Whitsun Weekend. This newsletter is a 'special' devoted almost entirely to this topic. Included with this issue is the Report and Results document which has been sent to all entrants of the event. It had been my intention to combine the Results with the newsletter to form one document but it has proved more expedient and less expensive to keep the two as separate items. I hope that all members will find something of interest in the package.

The next issue of the newsletter - December 1992 - will be the 29th which I have produced as editor. Looking back through my files, I see that the first issue was dated February 1983, and I now feel that after 10 years that the time has come for a change - a new finger is needed on the typewriter keys. I intend to make the December issue my last as editor.

To the person who is willing to take over, I can offer help and advice to get them going. During the ten years I have nearly always had sufficient copy to fill each edition and I see no reason why this should not continue - I may even have time to write an occasional article myself ! So come on - somewhere out there is a power-crazy wielder of the red pen just waiting for this chance. Contact Dave Sheldrake or me and commence a new era for the Kent Group newsletter.

Laurie Lowe.

The INVICTA HUNDRED was the result of much hard work by many people over a long period of time. Effort started in earnest some two years ago. A draft route was proposed and first steps were undertaken by the five teams assigned to identify potential checkpoints and to write a preliminary route description. A work sheet was drawn up to identify tasks, responsibilities and target completion dates. Progress was steady with occasional working-party meetings.

January 1st 1992 marked the start of the final run-up to the event as first applications for entry forms dropped through the letter-box. By the end of January the entries had reached the limit of 500. It was perhaps a good omen that the 500th entry from an LDWA member arrived by the second post on January 31st. Everything seemed on schedule! Non-members and late entries were assigned to a reserve list and this list was gradually depleted as some people had to withdraw their entries due to other commitments or illness or injury. By the 27th April - the last day for a refund of entry fee - the reserve list was used up and we still had a full entry of 500.

In the meantime, preparations for the great day were gathering momentum as two years of planning and action came to fruition. Lists of willing helpers were assigned to shifts and jobs, transport hired, local groups contacted, provisions ordered and the route and route description given a final check before the latter was sent for printing.

That all this effort was rewarded amply by a most successful event is attested by the many complimentary letters which were received in the days which followed the Whitsun weekend.

There follows a number of reports/accounts by members of the group together with a selection of the many letters received. My thanks to everyone who has taken the trouble to record their experiences and thoughts.

Laurie Lowe.

THE INVICTA 100

This is not a report. It is simply a big "Thank You".

There were numerous Kent Members, families and friends who contributed a tremendous amount of their time and effort before and during the Invicta 100. Indeed some will continue to perform various tasks now the event is officially over. Their help and assistance has been greatly appreciated all round, by others involved in different aspects whose success depended on the mutual support they received, by the marshals at the 15 checkpoints en-route who themselves worked stoically during their tours of duty, by the entrants for whom the event was staged, and certainly by myself.

I was enormously impressed wherever I went over the weekend by the great deal of hard work displayed and the cheerful and willing way everyone pitched in. Many of you did much more than was originally asked or envisaged, helping to cover unexpected circumstances, often at short notice.

Although I thanked as many people as possible personally at the end, I could not hope to see everybody, nor can I write to all concerned. The Newsletter seemed to be the best way of ensuring my thanks reached everyone. It would be invidious to single out individuals because there is such a flood of memories in my mind it would honestly take pages to pay full tribute. Even then I would be afraid of overlooking someone who had performed quietly and efficiently but who might not have come to my attention. So forgive me for taking this way of expressing my sincere appreciation to everyone concerned. To those of you who had family and friends who helped please pass this message on.

Not everyone was able to be at Wildernesse School on the Monday morning but observing the "buzz" in the air it was clear to me that those who were there had thoroughly enjoyed the experience (or was it simply relief that it was over??!!).

It was a great team effort by you all. We may get brickbats as well as bouquets, and no doubt there are things that could have worked better, but nothing can take away your part in whatever success was achieved. For that you can take a great deal of satisfaction.

Thank you all once again.

Don Scott.

OBSERVATIONS FROM A MEMBER OF THE COMPUTER TEAM

With the headmaster's kind permission we set up 'shop' in his room at the Wildernesse School. This room also contained the Emergency Telephone. Later the radio men installed a land line telephone in case they had any problems to report. We should have taken warning from the blazing sun and high temperature outside!

With the computer set up we were able to relax for a while and help hand out the name badges which were in great demand. Later we watched the 10 a.m. start. Back on duty we received a few checkcards belonging to people who had retired. One of them had only achieved a few miles. We entered this information into the data-base with the start times and any non-starters that we were certain of.

Then came our first emergency phone call - a man had collapsed in Yalding so

we called an ambulance. He was kept in hospital overnight for observation and discharged next morning. Soon after we had another "emergency" - a man had been bitten on the bottom by a dog but was alright and wanted to continue the walk. Question - was it safe to leave hospital treatment till possibly Monday? We asked the experts and passed on the answer "Yes". Advice to suck poison from the wound was not passed on!

Both phones became busy and we found ourselves running a control room. There were dozens of retirements in the heat and requests for transport were frequent. Of the 109 retirements around half were in the first twelve hours, with only 16 retiring after the breakfast stop at Cuxton. I took a few hours sleep in the early hours and when I returned I found that Phil had virtually abandoned computing in order to man the phones - the phone log had now grown to several pages. Some retirements were now apparently on account of becoming chilled.

A rota for manning the telephones was organised and we were able to leave the walk control to others though we were involved in many problems that occurred. A great relief to our mental strain was the sterling work put in by Phil Hastings and Anne, who - with Ernie Bishop - kept the Information Desk going. We were asked countless times for information that we hadn't time to sort out, so our constant cry was "Ask Phil".

During Sunday morning Keith arrived and Phil and I were able to stand down for a while but it was necessary to have one person reading data to another at the keyboard in order to get back on schedule. Wandering around the school seeing the work being done by the different teams was a joy to behold. All the walkers I spoke to had nothing but praise for all aspects to the Invicta organisation, except the weather which we had to admit was out of our control! The use of name badges was said to help the friendly atmosphere.

The last twenty-four hours of our task were very exhausting but we were able to provide provisional results for checking purposes around noon on Monday.

Bryan Clarke.

THE INVICTA HUNDRED - A SORT OF LOG by Tom Sinclair

Saturday 23rd May

- 06.20 Arrive at Start for Registration duties.
- 06.30 Briefing on Kit-check and Registration.
- 06.40 First walkers start arriving; told to wait!
- 07.00 Start checking names and numbers and essential kit items against lists.
- 08.00 Meet editor of Strider who takes a photo while a queue starts to form.
- 09.45 Watch participants assembling in main drive outside window while still checking in last few entrants.
- 09.58 Chairman's speech introducing Headmaster begins.
- 10.05 Headmaster's speech begins.
- 10.07 THEY'RE OFF.
- 10.10 Sort out paper work and prepare for runners' start.
- 10.30 Advise West Lancs Group on pubs near checkpoint 10, discuss arrangements for "shepherding" on 2nd night. Volunteer(?) to help on runners' registration, etc.
- 11.15 Return home for pizza, coffee and polite conversation with treasurer about early 19th century farming in Scotland and orchestration of French folk song.
- 13.15 Back to school for Runners' Start.
- 14.00 Kit-check for runners - how do they fit it all into those bum-bags?
- 15.00 RUNNERS OFF - sort out paperwork for computer.
- 15.15 One runner brought back to start by car: severe leg muscle strain after $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile - poor chap!

- 16.00 To Otford scout hut with previously mislaid keys to let North Yorks Group into Checkpoint 11.
- 17.30 Home for food and restful evening with a book.
- 20.00 Jenny (wife) to Rectory for a meeting.
- 20.30 Jenny back with thirsty rector: we three to the pub.
- 23.00 To bed full of good beer and theology.

Sunday 24th

- 07.30 Reported to school kitchen for briefing on duties.
- 08.00 Donned waiter's apron and served retirees.
- 13.30 Home for alfresco meal in garden with Ron.
- 15.00 Visit CP 10 - more Kent group than West Lancs who were very hospitable; Ron greeted several walkers.
- 15.45 Visit CP 11; clipper missing from top of Otford hill; Ron re-assured walkers and checkpointers.
- 16.00 Back to base; report missing clipper; hear other news; drink tea; check shepherding arrangements, etc.
- 17.30 Took over emergency phone answering for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour.
- 18.15 Radio phone request for water between CP 15 and finish.
- 18.45 Aquarius returns: water not needed at Gracious Lane!
- 19.15 Request for water repeated and queried.
- 19.20 Aquarius despatched to TOYS HILL!!
- 20.00 Relieved of phone answering duties to go to CP 14 for shepherding during hours of darkness.
- 21.45 Leave Limpsfield Chart with 5 walkers including veteran Henry Bridge and a fellow Ulsterman.
- 22.30 H.B. breaks plastic mug on falling heavily over stile near Chartwell; trip otherwise incident free.

Monday 25th

- 00.15 Arrive Ide Hill village hall (CP 15) to friendly greeting and good refreshments from Cornwall/Devon group. Talked about Chagford Challenge.
- 00.30 Driven back to CP 14 by Trevor B.
- 00.45 Leave CP 14 with 8 walkers in various states of preservation. Ron in lead.
- 02.00 Take over lead at French Street Farm, moon rising.
- 03.15 More West Country greetings and refreshments.
- 03.25 Ron back to CP 14 to shepherd a third group.
- 04.00 Leave CP 15 with 5 walkers (3 not yet ready) to walk to finish through glorious dawn in good company.
- 05.40 Reach outskirts of Sevenoaks; 3 go on; stay with 2.
- 05.50 Overtaken by second team of shepherds; compare notes.
- 06.30 Arrive at finish; take photo of 2; search for tea.
- 06.35 Take off rucksack - put on apron.
- 08.05 Wash, shave and partial change to try and re-humanise.
- 08.15 To Headmaster's office for news, snooze and phone.
- 08.55 Chauffeur 2 lassies from Lancashire to station.
- 09.15 Back to phone picking up bacon butty en route.
- 09.55 Last finisher (Beryl) checks in amidst loud applause.
- 10.05 Radio phone cut off; I nod off (again); sort log of calls received into order; drink tea; tidy office.
- 11.25 Kent Group breakfast with school caretaker as guest.
- 12.00 Chairman gives orders for self back-patting and final tidying of school premises and grounds.
- 12.05 Tour grounds finding two sleeping walkers.
- 12.30 Home for shandy and fifteen hours' sleep.

My thanks to Tom for giving this blow-by-blow account of what is involved in running a hundred mile challenge walk. Laurie Lowe.

THE INVICTA 100

A was for appetites appeased by the kitchen staff
Sweat pouring from them but still game for a laugh.

B is for blisters making many walkers lame
Flint-stones and heat got most of the blame.

C for computerised results compiled hour by frantic hour
Unnecessary interruptions were greeted by a glower!

D was for drop-outs streaming steadily back to base
We were pleased to find that plenty stuck the pace.

E was for endless help Kent group gratefully received
By many other groups and friends our burden was relieved.

F was for feet that ran or trudged a hundred long miles
One kind Marshall massaged weary ones, bringing grateful smiles.

G was the great feeling when Wildernesse School was in sight
Even the toughest of the entrants exhibited delight.

H was the harassed look worn by Chief Marshall, Don Scott
By Monday we felt the worry had aged him quite a lot!

I was Information Desk busy from morn till night
Then Phil thought he'd have a peaceful sleep
But Peter gently(?) woke him at first light.

J for jobs that were never ending for those who drove a car
They were sent to emergencies near and far.

K for Kent countryside admired by many from the North
It pleased us to hear their praises singing forth.

L for Laurie Lowe who dealt with all the paperwork
Despite a spell in bed, it was a job he didn't shirk.

M for the many Marshalls who did their level best
They sorted out many problems with all too little rest.

N was for night-walking when spirits tended to be low
Weary walkers brightened on seeing the sunrise glow.

O for Organisation by Kent Group's Invicta 100 Committee
They're the ones who sorted out all the nitty gritty.

P for purse strings firmly held by Ron
If it weren't for him the money'd soon be gone.

Q for queries - some strange ones we did hear
Like what to do about a dog bite received in the rear.

R for raw, roasted and red flesh mainly caused by sun
Some fair-skinned walkers looked really overdone.

S for St John's Ambulance team who ministered night and day
To help walkers feel more comfortable before they went away.

T for tea the kitchen staff made by the gallon
No matter how much appeared the demand didn't slacken.

U for urgent messages received by the Control room crew
Luckily for them there were only a few.

V for valiant helpers who worked on check-points with a will
And catered for the hungry hordes who paused for a fill.

W for willing Radio operators keeping everyone in touch
Their flow of information helped us very much.

I'll ignore X, Y and Z
Because everything is said!

With apologies to poets everywhere and especially in the Kent Group!

Pat Clarke

Dear Trevor,

4 June 1992

May I on behalf of the LDWA thank you and your committee very much indeed for organising such a successful Hundred. We - the Association - greatly appreciate all the time, effort, planning and work on the day that went into the event.

It may be invidious to single out particular aspects but many people have commented on the very high quality of the route description and the excellent friendly checkpoints.

The Invicta will be remembered as a "hot" Hundred. It was perhaps a pity you could not have laid on slightly cooler weather! As a breed we seem better able to protect ourselves against bad weather than good.

On a personal note, I would like to mention the "other" event, the Marshals' Walk, which was extremely well organised and most enjoyable.

I hope that you and your organising committee are now able to take a well-earned rest.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Sayer (Chairman)

Dear Don,

Many thanks to you and Kent LDWA Group for all your hard work in staging the very successful Invicta Hundred at the weekend. I am well aware of the enormous amount of work involved before, during and after the event, and I am very grateful for all you have done for the walkers such as myself.

The one thing about the event that I didn't really enjoy was the heat - and I'm not blaming you for that!

Nevertheless, I am left with many pleasant memories to look back on. As always, the people involved, both helpers and walkers, gave the Hundred its unique atmosphere - renewing old friendships before the start, the cheerful encouragement from checkpointers (often more tired than the walkers) along the route, and the camaraderie at the end, with the reception accorded to each walker in reaching the finish.

The route was very well conceived, including a cross section of the best scenery that Kent has to offer - downland, orchards, hopfields, views stretching away across the Weald, splendid country mansions surrounded by parkland, lovely old villages and churches, etc..

Of course there are personal highlights of the walk - the rabbits playing in the field in the bright dawn sunlight - the fox that crossed my path a couple of yards in front of me - being followed up a field of thick 6 ft high rape by a troop of 4 ft high Brownies! All the checkpoints were most welcome - those at Cuxton and Ide Hill particularly notable, and I will never forget the hall at Limpsfield chart where dishevelled walkers shared the hall with elegantly dressed villagers enjoying a cup of tea after Sunday morning service.

The route description deserves special mention. It is not easy to describe an intricate route, but this was spot on. The one or two occasions when I started down a wrong turning were the result of concentration lapses, and these were rapidly apparent.

So very many thanks indeed to everyone involved for yet another memorable hundred. I hope that you do not find it too much of an anticlimax after the event (I know that it can be) but that you can relax and get out walking, without the burden of responsibility that you have had over the past months.

With best wishes and grateful thanks,

Ken Falconer.

Dear Mr Lowe,

Before good intentions become eroded by the passage of time, a brief note to thank you, your committee and everybody also associated in any way in the '100' over the weekend.

From the meticulous route details to the excellently manned checkpoints, the organisation was excellent in every way and does you great credit. It was also a nice change to see that due notice was taken of the terrain and the common-sense of the entrants, and that in consequence there was a lack of pettifogging restrictions on the overnight section.

As a final tribute to the catering, it should be noted that, whilst I didn't hang about, I was 4 pounds heavier on Monday!

Thanks again,

Keith Moir.

Dear Laurie,

I am writing to thank you and the many other Kent Group members for making my first (and last!) one hundred mile walk such a memorable occasion. The route description was excellent, it was economic in the use of words but was splendidly clear and unambiguous. It should be used as a model for all authors who need to produce route descriptions.

Everybody, marshals and fellow walkers, was very friendly and those manning the later checkpoints made us feel like VIP's as they applauded our arrival on blistered feet.

The finish was great - well it would be wouldn't it - although I never realised Sevenoaks was so big. When I saw the church at Six Bells Lane, I thought "Right, that's it" but it was not to be for another $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to make it 101.1. At that point I would have been willing to settle for 100!!

As you know I finished just after midnight and after shepherd's pie, etc - it tasted good - I slept on the floor of the hall. A bit hard but I did not notice.

I arrived home just after 9 a.m. when it was necessary to explain why I had cut short our "walking weekend on the NDW". Thanks for not letting the cat out of the bag. It was best that Jean did not know what I was really doing!

Yours sincerely

Brian Haigh.

P.S. - The zinc oxide tape was a good idea; I still finished with some blisters but these were in different places to those I obtained on the Oxon 40.

Dear Don,

I would like to thank you and your committee for organising an excellent walk. I enjoyed it and will always remember with affection the orchards, churches and spring plants which all contributed to the experience! The marshals too were, as usual, super.

In its own way the weather made a positive addition. OK, it didn't facilitate walking, but it certainly highlighted the beauty of the countryside. People would have moaned if it was wet!

Best wishes, Julie Stoddart (Sussex LDWA)

Dear Don,

With such an impressive team of organisers involved with the Invicta Hundred it is difficult to know who to thank, but I realise that you were involved with a great deal of planning.

The route was superb and an example of good walking stretches uphill and down without the need to search exclusively for hill climbs. The route description was faultless. The checkpoints very welcoming and the background organisation most impressive.

Despite the uncomfortable heat, I enjoyed the event and shall retain happy memories for years to come.

If it is possible to spread the word - my thanks to everybody involved.

Sincerely,

Keith Noble.

Dear All,

We have just got back from the '100' but unfortunately did not make it back to the school this morning to thank everyone. When we left last night I did speak to everyone I could spot, but this was obviously only a small selection of the numerous helpers.

Please say a big thankyou to everyone who contributed to such a successful day - nobody knows better how much hard work it takes to make everything look so simple!

Congratulations on organising all the extra drink stops, a real lifesaver in that heat. The forecast thunderstorms were obviously diverted to Bristol, because there has been flooding round here.

I hope by the time you read this you have caught up on sleep and are getting back to normal (whatever that may mean for the LDWA) We both enjoyed ourselves (yes, honestly) although my feet are still a little tender. Surprisingly I didn't get any sunburn - all the red turned out to be nettle stings from when I fell asleep and keeled over into a particularly virulent bed of them.

Hope to see you on the WWW provided Chris can face another bout of cramp.

Thanks again, from Shirley (and Chris who is still asleep) Hume.

Dear Laurie,

Many thanks for a great event. Please pass on my thanks to the committee and other helpers who worked so enthusiastically to make it an enjoyable event.

I'm sorry I had to rush off after the event but my son's girlfriend who was chauffering us lives in Doncaster and had to be at work on Monday.

It was a very clear route description and printed large enough so that us oldies could still read it on the move.

Thanks for adjusting checkpoint 2, I did need the later closing time but as you expected, the others were OK. As it was I could have probably achieved 27 hours on the 10 o/c start schedule but I was still on my schedule for 24 hours at the breakfast stop until the sun came up, and I hadn't bargained for the Kentish climate. After my son dropped out with sunstroke and a chap keeled over at Otford, I decided not to take any chances and walked.

I enclose the documents relating to the tankard purchase that were in the box, in case anyone needs them to claim their money from the event funds. If it goes into the red by this amount let me know and I will make a donation to cover it. It was a nice gesture and I will cherish and display it proudly. When Peter gave it to me he said for services to the LDWA, I'm not sure that's right as I've taken more than I have given. One of these days when people's memories of the last Chiltern 100 have elapsed, perhaps I can organise another round here, making a more positive contribution.

Really the best part of these hundreds is meeting people from other areas who I only ever see at the 100 - it is an annual reunion. Sorry to ramble on, thanks again.

Roger Cole.

Dear Laurie,

It is never quite clear to whom one should write after a 100 but since yours is the only address I have, I'm writing to you, assuming this will be passed around others in the Kent Group.

It was a splendid 100. Very efficient yet relaxed organisation at the start and finish. An outstandingly good route description through difficult countryside. Actually I preferred the Green Sand Way to the better known North Downs Way and would choose the former were I to walk one way through Kent in the future. Reports said it was the hottest bank holiday weekend for 20 years, which would appear to make the hottest 100. Certainly the hottest I can remember, especially on the Sunday, but fortunately you had the organisation to provide us with welcome extra drink stops.

The double breakfast stop worked out surprisingly well. I had my fears. I suspect the key was having some refreshments at the first. It was certainly a big improvement on the overcrowding experienced last year. And we were fortunate in having the Surrey group there who did an excellent job.

One particular memorable highlight for us. We left the Otford checkpoint in the heat of day. With the long, mostly road section to Morants Court Farm we got increasingly hot and weary. Then we had the stiff climb up the fields with no shelter from the sun. Finally the 'contouring' path passed through the shade of a copse of large trees. We sank blissfully into the cool, long grass. Not only were we sheltered from the sun but mysteriously there was a strong cool breeze under the trees (it had been completely still on the climb up the hill) So much so that after 10 minutes or so we had to get up and continue on our way for fear of being in the unique position of having to retire with hypothermia!

I also remember the extraordinary rape field on the way up to checkpoint 4. We came round the corner into the field to find, much to our surprise, that all those walking in front had disappeared. We discovered why. The rape was over our heads when walking up the path. We were glad we made it before dark, we visualised the possibility of wandering around lost in rape for ever.

Thank you all very much for providing us with such a memorable event, and you still have the energy to put on the Wealden Waters, we shall be back for that.

With best wishes,

George Foot.

Dear Mr Lowe,

After a mad romp around Kent which I thoroughly enjoyed (history helps blot out the lows!) I believe it is high time that I rejoined the LDWA. Would you be kind enough to forward a membership application so that I may join affiliated to the Kent Group, if that is how it works.

Whilst writing I should be grateful if you could pass on my congratulations to the organising committee and their chairman and all others who made the event thoroughly enjoyable. The highlight for me was the friendliness from start to finish, making us feel like lords, waiting on every request.

If you have the opportunity please pass on thanks to all your far-flung supporting groups.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Herrington, Faversham.

Dear Laurie,

We felt we would like to thank you and your group very much for all the hard work that went into the marvellous organisation of the Invicta Hundred. We thought that all arrangements were first class and the friendly welcome from the members of the Kent Group is what makes our visits to your area so very enjoyable.

We were only sorry that we were unable to complete the event but we are very grateful for the help given after my mishap, especially from the ladies back at Wildernesse School.

My hand is improving now, though we have had a few problems as it became very painful and septic when we returned home and we have had to make several trips to the local hospital for further treatment. That will teach me to be more careful when night walking in future.

Thanks again and I hope you have all recovered from your hard work. Please convey our gratitude to everyone concerned.

Kind regards,

Chris and Sid Kenworthy.

Dear Mr Lowe,

It is with tears in my eyes (not now with pain) but with jubilation and pride that I was able to take part and actually finish my first 100 mile hike, but this was only achieved due to the organisation from the Kent Group and your wonderful support teams, especially Brian and Mike who gave me some marvellous support and moral boosting during the last leg of the Invicta 100. These two guys were absolutely terrific!!

My recovery has been quite good, but I cannot sit down or I soon fall asleep and that is the reason why it has taken so long to write this letter of thanks.

I have come to the conclusion that completing the 100 is like giving birth. First there is all the preparation and anticipation. Have I got everything? Done everything that I have to? Am I healthy enough? And then comes the big day. The pain is starting (labour) it gets a lot worse and then someone is saying "Congratulations, well done" but you yourself are so tired, so exhausted that at first you can't take it all in - but after a few hours sleep you wake up to see your new badge and certificate in all its shining glory (baby) You smile and the pain disappears. You start to look ahead with pride and a big beaming smile on your face as you show everyone your spanking new certificate and badge and say out loud 'I did it! I did it! I did it!'

I have done my first 100 mile hike and I cannot wait until next year to go for my second badge. I may stop when I reach 10 or 20 or 30 or.....?

Thanks for making my dreams come true, with deepest admiration for all your hard work,

love to you all,

Beryl Booth.

FOUND:- Two tea towels were left in the kitchen at Wildernesse School.

If these belong to you contact Eileen Lowe [REDACTED]

Dear Laurie,

Long distance walking is a serious addiction of major proportions! Many thanks to the members of the Kent group, and all those responsible for the individual checkpoints, for another memorable event.

Having the first checkpoint at 15 miles into the route is an advantage: you feel that you have got well into the walk before there is any temptation to stop. The 9 mile drinks point is a necessity, however, and thanks for all the extra drinks provided en route. They were all the more welcome for being unexpected.

I had never previously walked in Kent and was pleasantly surprised by a landscape far more rural and unspoilt than I had imagined. I have never seen so many orchards and hop fields. I knew about oast houses, but mainly from text books and tea towels!

I enjoyed the whole route, now I realise why it was done anti-clockwise - the best was saved until (nearly) the last. Toy's, Ide and Yorks Hills really were the icing on the cake.

Following two well-waymarked long distance paths provided a useful back-up for the route description. It was reassuring to have waymarks confirm the text.

The North Downs Way provided straightforward navigation which was particularly welcome during the night. The Green Sand Way, by contrast, kept you awake and alert! The route description was a masterpiece of simplicity and accuracy. Each year they are superb, this year's was remarkably free from ambiguity. It must have taken hours of work to achieve that standard. I know that it was supposed to supplement maps, in fact it made maps unnecessary.

I am always impressed, not just by the food and drink provided at the checkpoints, but also by the friendliness and the welcome. It is an achievement in its own right to provide that standard of service to everyone on an event of this size. Especially towards the end, it means a lot to be brought a drink rather than have to get up to fetch it! At almost every checkpoint I was asked if I needed my water bottle filled.

It is unfair to single out any particular checkpoint. However, I remember being clapped in and out of Westerham Hill School. I did not take advantage of the home-made shower at Knockholt School, but it was bliss to eat my meal in the sun with my feet in a footbath!

The two hall provision for breakfast worked very well indeed. Everyone was most helpful and, as at the end, the food was well cooked and promptly served. The Devon and Cornwall Group's catering at Ide Hill was pleasantly different from the others. I appreciated the savoury food: quiche and salad was very welcome. West Lancs' lemon curd sandwiches at Wrotham Cricket Club made a change from jam.

It has to be said that the weather was hot! However, things can never be perfect. If it had rained, conditions underfoot would have been extremely muddy and slippery.

So, thank-you very much indeed. The whole weekend was a masterpiece of efficiency and friendliness. I will return to Kent!

Yours sincerely,

David Fox.

Dear Laurie,

Having recovered from the Invicta Hundred, I would like to thank you and all the people concerned with its organisation for an enjoyable (more at some times than others!) and rewarding experience.

It is interesting to test oneself against such a taxing target - and it was comforting to know that there were havens of rest and refreshment at the checkpoints! Win or lose, the walk had its other prizes - the companionship of fellow endeavourers, the beauty of the Greensand Way, the smell of foxes, and flowers, the sounds of nightingales and larks.....

Many thanks,

Peter Whitestone.

Dear Laurie,

Just a few lines to say a very big 'Thank You' to you and all of your fellow Kent Group members for such a very good, well organised and, for me, a very testing 100 mile walk. Did I really finish?

Yours and Shirley's help over the penultimate section, at that time of the morning was especially helpful and will always be memorable for me.

Once again, many thanks,

John Luckes.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS RECEIVED:-

Dear Brian and Pat,

I'm out of the recovery room! It was a very enjoyable 100 - a big thank you to the Kent Group. I enjoyed the Kent countryside very much, especially the butterflies on the second day, including Brimstones which I haven't seen for some time. I'd no idea rape seed oil plants grew so tall!

Peter Worthinton.

Thanks for an excellently organised 100, I found the route description to be very exact and a model by which all others should be judged.

Mike Dixon.

I must also ask you to thank the two real gentlemen who led us in from checkpoint 14. I had fallen asleep in St. Andrew's Hall - the thought of having to navigate to Ide Hill and beyond on this second night, not being the centre of much excitement for me, when I was awoken with this announcement that there was a guide to lead me there!! I staggered to my feet, not really knowing which end of the hall was the way out and followed the way to Ide Hill. When we got there another guide offered to show us the way back to Sevenoaks!! - You don't want my badge back do you?

Anyway thanks for a great three days, the Invicta Hundred will be remembered for a long time to come.

Kindest regards,

John Lay.

P.S. When I next meet up with my guides (probably the Wealden Waters) I'll buy them a pint.

At last, one genuine complaint! From Tom Hughes "The beer in Kent is far too expensive!!"

INVICTA 100 ENTRY ANALYSIS

Addresses (England and Wales):

Avon.....	14
Bedfordshire.....	4
Berkshire.....	7
Buckinghamshire.....	8
Cambridgeshire.....	11
Cheshire.....	10
Cleveland.....	19
Clwyd.....	1
Cornwall.....	2
Cumbria.....	5
Derbyshire.....	4
Devonshire.....	22
Dorset.....	4
Durham.....	2
Dyfed.....	1
Essex.....	18
Glamorgan - Mid, South, West	8
Gloucestershire.....	4
Greater Manchester.....	6
Gwent.....	2
Gwynedd.....	0
Hampshire.....	9
Hereford & Worcestershire...	10
Hertfordshire.....	17
Humberside.....	9
Isle of Wight.....	1
Kent.....	13
Lancashire.....	38
Leicestershire.....	9
Lincolnshire.....	2
London.....	13
Merseyside.....	8
Middlesex.....	7
Norfolk.....	0
Northamptonshire.....	4
Northumberland.....	2
Nottinghamshire.....	12
Oxfordshire.....	1
Powys.....	2
Shropshire.....	8
Somerset.....	2
Staffordshire.....	17
Suffolk.....	6
Surrey.....	26
Sussex - East & West.....	24
Tyne & Wear.....	4
Warwickshire.....	4
West Midlands.....	21
Wiltshire.....	2
Yorkshire - N, S & W.....	73
Northern Ireland.....	1
Scotland.....	0
Belgium.....	1
Netherlands.....	2

Age Groups:

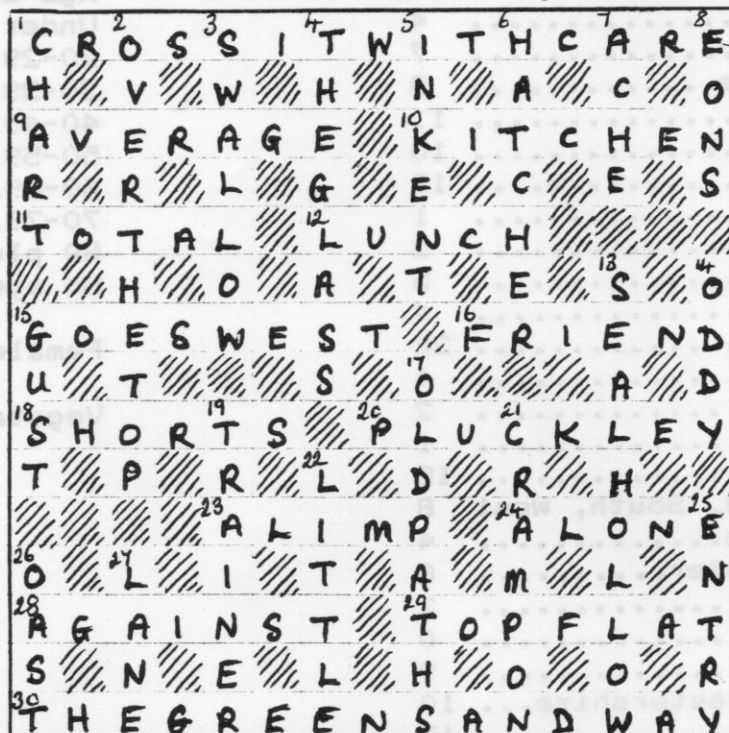
Under 20.....	0
20-29.....	32
30-39.....	83
40-49.....	192
50-59.....	147
60-69.....	37
70-79.....	1
80 plus.....	1
No age indicated	7

Females..... 59

Vegetarians..... 59

Here are the answers to Shirley's INVICTA HUNDRED CRYPTIC CROSSWORD PUZZLE :-

The puzzle was not made any easier by an unfortunate typing error in the clue for 18 Across. It should have read "Be quiet" NOT "Be quite"!!



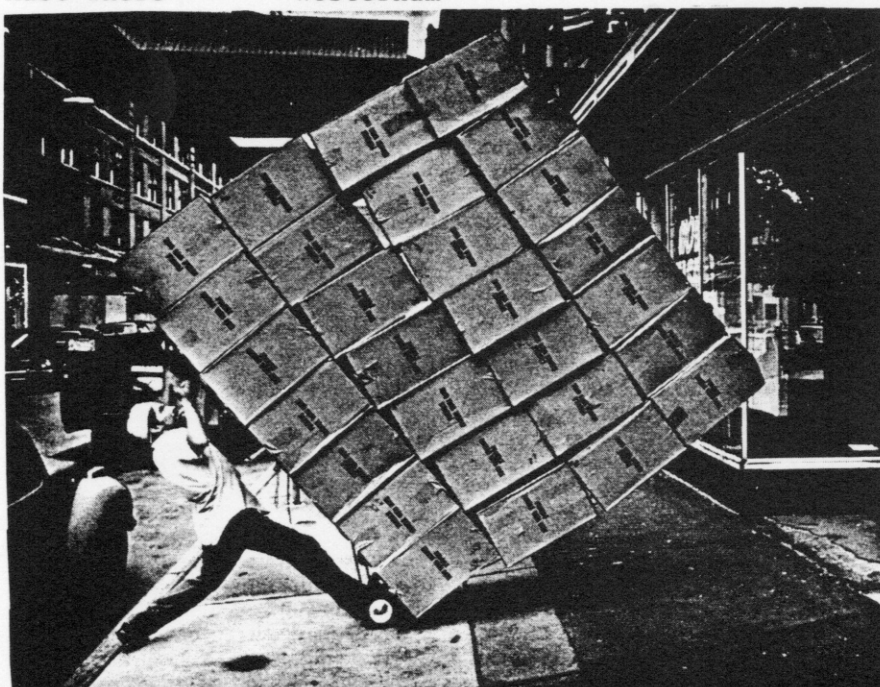
The solutions to Tom Sinclair's ANAGRAM PLACENAMES FOR KENT are given below:-

Moist Dane
Home map
Girt on bed
How tram
Gin stem wall
Skin gem
Hang in farm
Bedded inn
Traybuncer
Stoke felon
Oven sakes
Three scor
Gin Hag Mill
Mast where

Maidstone
Meopham
Tonbridge
Wrotham
West Malling
Kemsing
Farningham
Biddenden
Canterbury
Folkestone
Sevenoaks
Rochester
Gillingham
Westerham

Bard set
Stiff lice tort
Poll tax
Rouge nog herb
Ruby tinge war
Slay new
Dry fones
Harm hose
Harf sod
Frodod
Killed far
Dell in fog

Brasted
Trottiscliffe
Plaxtol
Borough Green
Waterringbury
Swanley
Eynsford
Shoreham
Ashford
Otford
Larkfield
Longfield



O.K! O.K! Tinned
rice for check-
point 4 - but
I still think
someone can't
calculate!!