

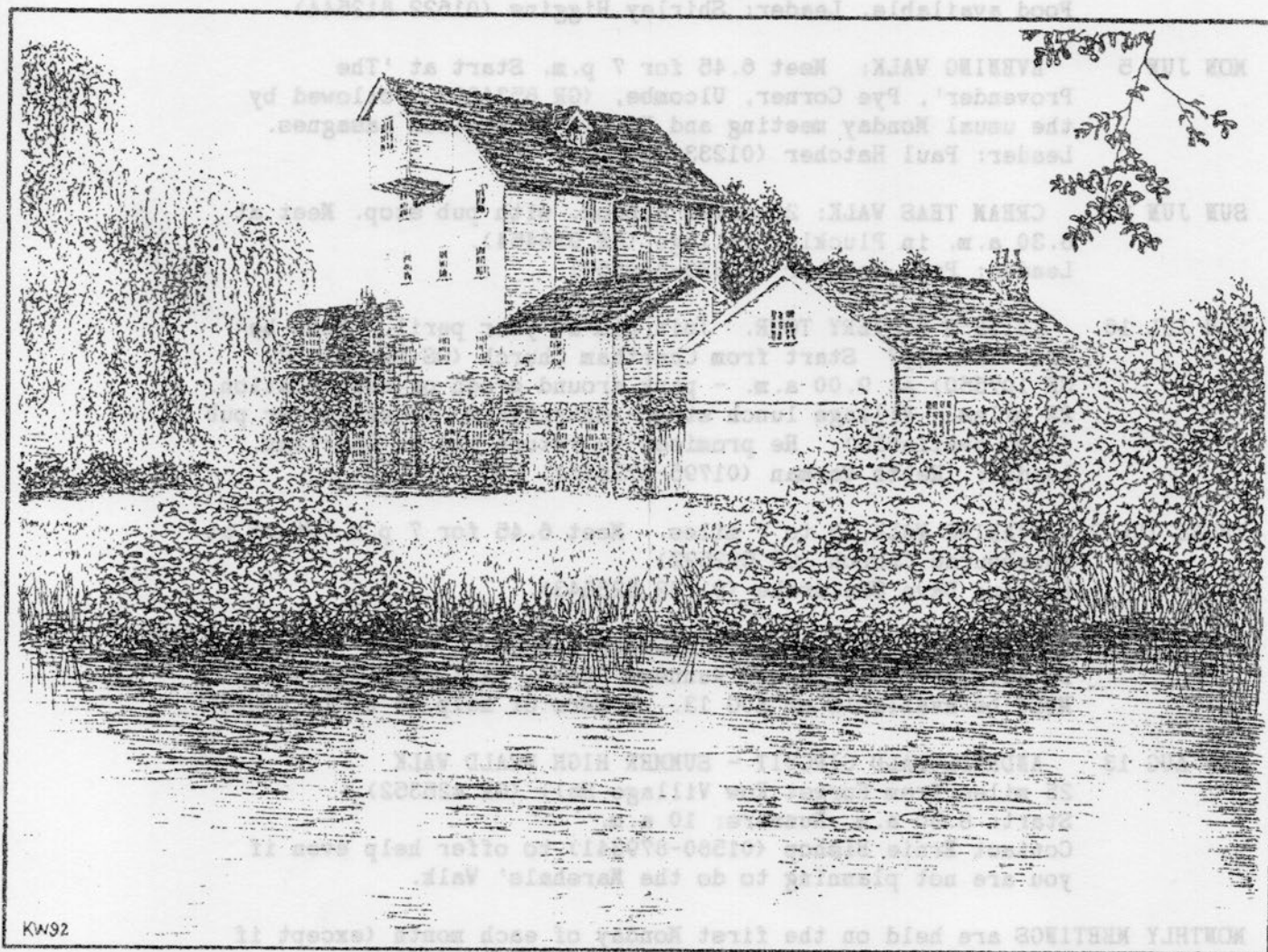


LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

Kent Group

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

NEWSLETTER



KW92

NUMBER 36

APRIL 1995

COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN RON ROWETH
TREASURER ALAN BALL
SECRETARY DAVID SHELDRAKE

MEMBERS

ANN BEECHING TREVOR BLAKE
ANDREW BOULDEN BRIAN BUTTIFANT
PAUL HATCHER NEIL O'ROURKE
KEVIN PUTTOCK

KENT PROGRAMME APRIL TO OCTOBER 1995

SUN APR 23 HARRIETSHAM HOP - 20 miles approx. Meet 8.30 a.m. at Harrietsham Station (GR 866529). Pub stop at Newnham. Food available. Leader: Shirley Higgins

MON JUN 5 EVENING WALK: Meet 6.45 for 7 p.m. Start at 'The Provender', Pye Corner, Ulcombe, (GR 853486). Followed by the usual Monday meeting and Martin's Luscious Lasagnes. Leader: Paul Hatcher

SUN JUN 25 CREAM TEAS WALK: 20 miles approx. with pub stop. Meet at 8.30 a.m. in Pluckley Village (GR 926454). Leader: Paul Hatcher

SUN JUL 16 KEITH'S MYSTERY TOUR. Join him at your peril. Does he know the way? Start from Chartham Church (OS Sheet 179, GR 107550) at 9.00 a.m. - park around green or near station. 22 miles. Village lunch stop - churchyard, riverside or pub (food available). He promises to return you to Chartham. Leader: Keith Warman

THURS JUL 27 EVENING WALK, 6 to 7 miles. Meet 6.45 for 7 p.m. Start at Shipbourne Church (GR 592522). Leader: Dave Sheldrake

SUN JULY 30 MARSHALS' WALK for ANDREDSWEALD CIRCUIT
Details as below but no Runners Start. All participants MUST be available on AUG 13. Offers of help to Ernie Bishop

SUN AUG 13 ANDREDSWEALD CIRCUIT - SUMMER HIGH WEALD WALK
25 miles from Forest Row Village Hall (GR 425352)
Start: 8.30 a.m. Runners: 10 a.m.
Contact Ernie Bishop to offer help even if you are not planning to do the Marshals' Walk.

MONTHLY MEETINGS are held on the first Monday of each month (except if that coincides with a Bank Holiday when they are postponed to the second Monday) at 'The Provender', Pye Corner, Ulcombe, from 8 p.m. onwards.

Dear fellow Kent LDWs,

As I write the Sevenoaks Circular is only a few days away and the entries so far received could well mean that we will again top 300. Bryan Clarke's report on the 20k version of the 'Gatliff' reached me soon after the last Newsletter had been "put to bed". Since then I have read the official report which was full of praise for the support from Kent Group: there were certainly a lot of us about that day.

The next event was our Annual Lunch, preceded by an optional short walk, and Andrew Boulden is to be congratulated on a grand occasion, greatly enjoyed by 80 members and friends and splendidly organised.

Talking of organisation those of you who had already volunteered to marshal on the 'Shropshire Hundred' will have received Ann Beeching's letter and will have learnt that, after all, you volunteered for something completely different. If you haven't already contacted Ann to let her know your availability for mobile support or serving food at the finish please do so A.S.A.P. The change in what the Kent Group is being asked to do (the checkpoint we were allocated does not exist) may also mean that we need more helpers so please ring Ann or Ron (01-949-7630) if you can help on Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, 27, 28 and 29 May. The Marshals' Walk is on 6, 7 and 8 May because this year the 'May Day' Bank Holiday has been shifted from 1st to 8th May in order to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of VE Day.

If you attended the A.G.M. (or if you have read the first page) you will already know that Trevor Blake and Neil O'Rourke have joined the Committee in place of Maurice Faircloth and myself. Maurice's family and work commitments leave him little time for committee affairs and it was good to see him (and 17 others) on Ernie's walk last Saturday. As for me I reckon I can still edit this Newsletter without going to meetings as long as people continue to send me articles, tell me what the committee has decided, compile crosswords, draw funny pictures, etc.

The two 'new' committee members need no introduction and both already do a lot for the group in many ways - not least in helping tail enders on social walks as I know from experience on more than one occasion, most recently on Ernie's walk when my sciatica was playing up.

Due to a power cut I wrote this by candlelight in front of a cheery log fire and thus could not then gauge whether this would fill a page or not and, of course, there was 'downtime' on the production line. In any case that is quite enough from me for the time being.

Tom Sinclair.

P.S. Thanks are again due to Keith Warman for the cover illustration. The subject matter may become more relevant if our application to run the 'Hundred', based in Canterbury, in the year 2000 is accepted because we shall need to explore that area much more than most of us have yet.

Tom

THE 1994 GATLIFF MARATHON
or THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN DO THEIR GOOD DEED FOR THE DAY

Due to family reasons I was unable to take part in the 50km event I had entered and so changed to the 20km route on the day. The 20km event must have been more popular than the organisers had envisaged as we were being offered one route description between two walkers. Having a shorter distance as well as the LDWA "exceed 20 miles in length" event certainly seems to be in favour nowadays.

We arrived at Edenbridge over an hour after the usual Kent Group crowd (apparently there were 35 Kent Group entries) had left on the longer route (150 starters) and as we walked into the club room we were greeted by Kent Group member Diane James who had been waiting around since Jim had gone on the 50km route just after seven o'clock. Diane was going to walk the 20km route starting at nine and she was pleased to see someone she knew to walk with. With me was my son Keith and his wife Sarah, and an LDWA member Maurice Hassell of Gravesend. The only other Kent Group member I saw was Merv Nutburn who was going to take it easy on the 20km route as he had a sore tendon problem subsequent to his triple marathon (three marathons on three successive days) of a few weeks previously. Shortly after we had arrived my brother-in-law John Hudson, and a mutual friend Roy Thompson, joined us.

We set off as a group of seven at nine o'clock and soon began to find the mud which was to make the going hard all the way round. Around ten o'clock Merv came running past (taking it easy we presume!) and he finished first of the forty-one 20km starters in 2 hours and 32 minutes. We arrived at Westerham Hall, luckily without any falls in the mud, though we saw a few slides and tumbles, and paused for ten minutes or so to have an early lunch.

The route back was just as muddy but the forecast rain did not come so we must think of that as a blessing. Coming across a very poorly (dead) sheep there was a short argument as to who would do their good deed for the day and give it the kiss of life. No volunteer was forthcoming! A suggestion that we cut it up and have a share out was vetoed after an even briefer discussion. However, later, we were able to do our good deed for the sheep fraternity (sisterhood?) when we discovered a sheep who in its greed for blackberry leaves had become entangled in the brambles and was immobilised. Diane was quick to offer a Swiss Army Knife to sort the sheep out. (What doesn't she carry in that sac?) Well, a short session with a knife and it was cut loose. No! We didn't cut up the sheep, we cut the brambles and it ran gratefully off! I wonder if the Swiss Army Knife people would consider including a pair of leather gloves on their knife?

Continuing our walk we eventually arrived to finish in around four and three-quarter hours after a great walk in some lovely countryside. The time surprised us as we hadn't thought we'd been hanging about. Was the distance really more than 20km we wondered? We refreshed ourselves at the bar and took on board the excellent hot dogs, beans and onions, followed by fruit and rice, before leaving for the car drive home.

Bryan C.

A GLUTINOUS GATLIFF

When was the mud ever NOT glutinous on the Gatliff? you may well ask but it keeps up the alliterative tradition even if the mud wasn't as bad as some years and the rain held off. I believe I was the only Kent Group member not to complete the 50k route (though some were out of time) but for various reasons which will emerge I must have walked the best part of 30 miles by the time I reached checkpoint 5.

Rashly following Jim Dunster I went wrong, as did many others, about a mile after the start. Not too much time lost and I was soon with a large party of Kent Group friends, too numerous to name, and feeling OK at a fairly brisk (for me) pace. Slowed a bit on a steep hill but no further problems with route finding. Around the Mariner's Hill area, on a section of the Invicta Hundred route, Pete Barnett, Andrew Boulden and the rest of the 'A' team plus some hangers-on appeared from behind me and I managed to stay with them almost into checkpoint 1. (rash again!) There Ron and Ann came in and out again before I left to tackle the next stage soon finding difficulty in locating The Old Manor House and Fenella Lampshades.

Thereafter straightforward enough to checkpoint 2, using another section of the 'Invicta' route, and on to the lunch stop at under half way. The next section, checkpoint 3 to 4, was uneventful (though the organisers should be reported to the Tarmac Avoidance Society for that 1500 m stretch between a railway bridge and the fancy gateposts) until I stupidly turned R along NDW instead of a track lower down thus adding a long loop and surprising at checkpoint 4 the young couple who had given me a glucose tablet as I overtook them earlier.

Left checkpoint with said couple but, knowing I was short of time drew away from them only to go astray later due to an elusive trough just before 'dayligone'. After meandering through woods decided to make for the beckoning lights of a farmhouse and found a good track which led between a barn and a house. Joining the two buildings and comprehensively blocking my path was a pair of wrought-iron gates!

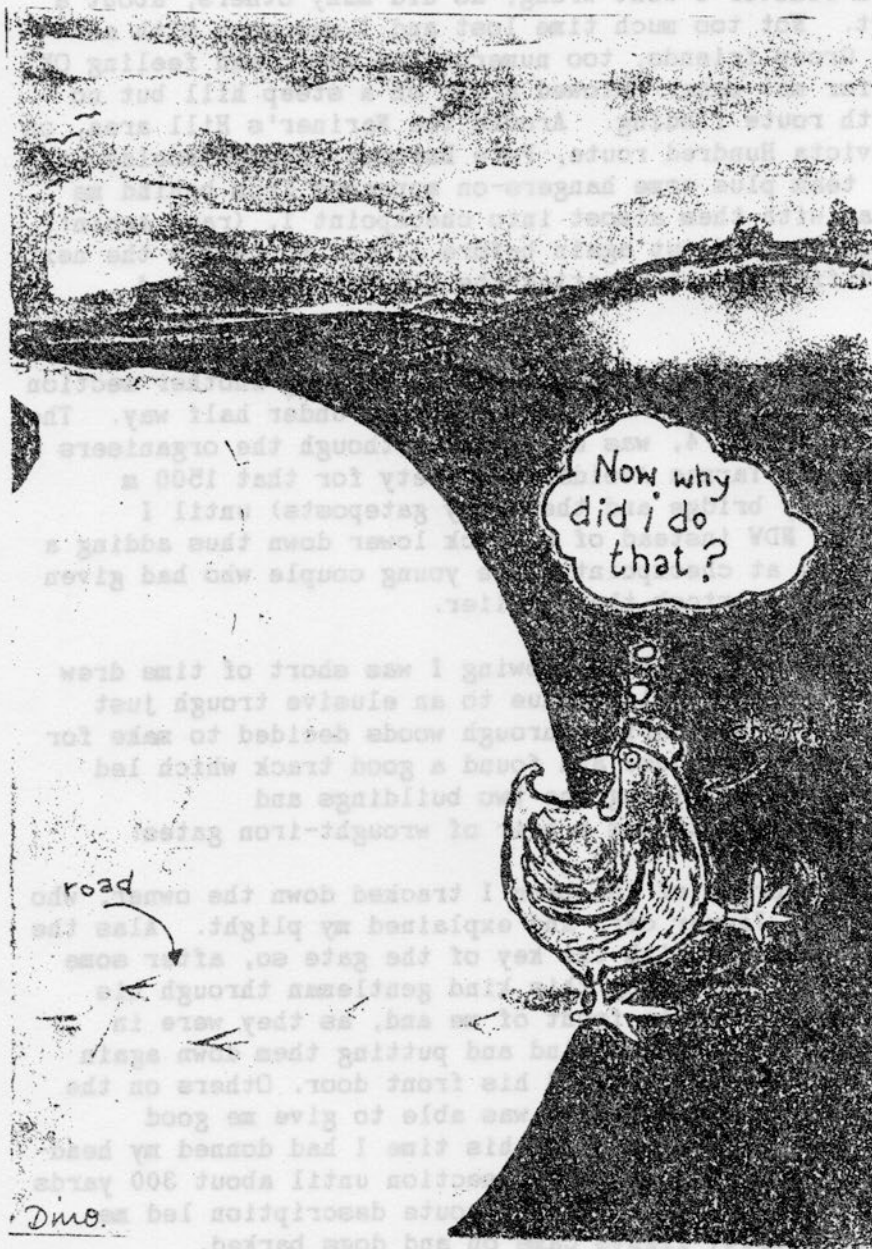
Spotting a light in the corner of the barn I tracked down the owner, who was working on a fine old Jaguar car, and explained my plight. Alas the lady of the house had gone out with the key of the gate so, after some discussion, I found myself following this kind gentleman through his house as he put down newspapers in front of me and, as they were in short supply, picking them up from behind and putting them down again until my very muddy trainers had reached his front door. Others on the walk had gone astray in that area so he was able to give me good directions to get me back on route. By this time I had donned my head-torch but made steady progress on the next section until about 300 yards short of the checkpoint an ambiguous bit of route description led me into a farmyard where security lights came on and dogs barked.

Above is a copy of a card sent to me on my birthday with the suggested caption: "Newlywed Long Distance Walker".
Tom S.

Retracing my steps I soon found the checkpoint and (surprise!) the same couple who, less surprisingly, had visited the same farmyard and who had just accepted an offer of a lift back to Edenbridge. It only took a mention of bangers and beans to persuade me to join them: the combined temptations of sloth and greed were too much for me!

Ah well! It was a good walk and the longest I had done since Maurice's 'Trois Chateaux' in mid-September.

Tom S.



Above is a copy of a card sent to me on my birthday with the suggested caption: "Bewildered Long Distance Walker". Tom S

W R A L D E N W A T E R S A P P E A L

Once again the time has come for the annual appeal! No, not your money, your **TIME** on 14/15 October. Group members who wish to walk should enter the Marshals' walk on 2/3 September and be available to help on 14/15 October. Please send an entry form **CLEARLY** marked 'Marshals' Walk' with an entry fee of **only £4** to Paul Hatcher. If you are willing to help either on 2/3 September or 14/15 October, but do not wish to do the walk, please contact Neil O'Rourke who is arranging the marshalling for both events.

It will certainly save Paul and Neil time and 'phone calls if you contact them early (even if you will be away and cannot help this year). Maybe **WITH** your help we can repeat last year's success and, hopefully, spread the workload a little more evenly.

THANKYOU

Paul Hatcher

Organisation of Events

Talking of spreading the workload more evenly those of you who were at the A.G.M. will know already that the Committee has prepared a "Who does What" chart for the group's three main events. The chart has been amended since January and an up-to-date version is enclosed so that we all know whom we should contact about which aspect of each event.

Editor.

Still on the subject of events many have commented favourably on the fruit loaf available at Kent Group checkpoints recently. So that you can volunteer to make some for future events, here is the recipe:-

F R U I T L O A F

½ pint of cold tea

½ lb. of mixed fruit

6 ozs. of soft brown sugar

Soak the above overnight

Add 12 ozs. self-raising flour and 1 egg. Stir all together and put into a greased loaf tin. Cook for 2 hours 1-2 Gas 300. Cover with foil half-way through cooking if becoming too brown.

When cold, slice and spread with butter.

Ann Waghorn.

Paul Hatcher is awaiting YOUR call!

THE RAMSBOTTOM ROUND

Further to the story in the last Newsletter, Derek Magnall has written with information about accommodation in that area. There is a Camping Barn on the route of the Spanners Round 20 mile walk and near the Ramsbottom Round. The Entwistle Camping Barn (GR SD 725175) has accommodation for ten persons and is organised by the West Pennine Moor Area Management Committee, telephone no. [REDACTED]

Bryan Clarke.

WELCOME!

To the following members who have joined us since the latest membership list was compiled in November 1994:-

Mal White, [REDACTED]

Maurice Hassell, [REDACTED]

Sarah Spencer, [REDACTED]

Sylvia & Malcolm Wickenden, [REDACTED]

David Sheldrake.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 9th July Rottingdean Windmill Walk - back in the programme after a gap last year, organisers Paul and Bernard Clifford [REDACTED] respectively)

Sunday 6th August Brentwood Marathon - route planned by Ron and Hannah Brown. If you are interested ring [REDACTED] for an entry form.

Saturday/Sunday 2nd/3rd September - **WEALDEN WATRES MARSHALS' WALK**
For Kent Group members who will, of course, be helping on the main event

Saturday 9th September - Kent Churches Walk and Bike Ride (sponsored)

Saturday/Sunday 14th/15th October - **WEALDEN WATRES WALK**
RING NEIL O'ROURKE WITH YOUR OFFER OF HELP!

Saturday 28th October - Seven Sisters Marathon - for entry form send S.A.E. to: S.S.M., [REDACTED]

Sunday 3rd December - Annual Lunch, Weald of Kent Golf Club, Headcorn

Friday 19th - Sunday 21st January 1996 - Brecon Beacons Weekend

28th January 1996 - Kent Group A.G.M. at Wye Village Hall preceded by short walk and picnic lunch.

A WATERY WALK FROM WATERINGBURY

On Friday 9th December six people and two dogs set out from The North Pole to investigate Ivan's night walk. The early part of the walk should have taken us along the Medway towpath from Wateringbury to Aylesford. We arrived at Bow Bridge to find that the heavy rain of the previous day had caused the river to burst its banks and the towpath had disappeared beneath the floodwater. We made a detour to the South later descending to the river again at Teston. The view of the flooded fields sent us off on another loop to West Farleigh with its picturesque church and thatched cricket pavilion.

Irresistibly drawn to the Medway once more we decided to attempt a crossing at the narrow hump-backed bridge at Barming, undeterred by a large notice at the top of the lane with the warning **BRIDGE CLOSED DUE TO FLOODING**. That would apply only to vehicles we thought. Surely there would be no problem for intrepid walkers with sturdy boots. We skirted round the water on the South side of the bridge with only a few trickles seeping inside our boots but there was no way round the deep pool on the North side. Like a general leading his troops into battle Tom went striding through and, like lemmings, people and dogs splashed along in his wake with one exception. Pam stopped, removed her boots and socks, rolled up her trousers and waded sedately through the flood. She was the only one with dry feet for the rest of the day. We sat on a wall to empty the water out of our boots and wring out our socks.

Determined to enjoy our day out we turned our backs on the Medway, abandoned the intended route and walked briskly to the King and Queen in East Malling. Tom and I ignored a notice in the porch requesting that smart casual dress be worn and went inside to enjoy jacket potatoes. Our plans to dry our wet socks by the log fire were overheard and we were asked to put them on the radiator in the passage. Presumably their presence by the fire might have put the customers off their food. Dogs were not allowed in the pub so the others stayed outside and took it in turns to sneak in for a "warm" by the fire. Jean was upset at not being able to take her dog inside as she thought that Poppy was much prettier than Tom's muddy socks (What, even the yellow ones?! Ed.) which had been allowed in even though they were banished to the passage.

After lunch we made our way to West Malling where Ivan was re-united briefly with his original route. We shuddered when he told us we were to walk by the lake in Manor Park, but fortunately the path was dry. When we arrived back at the cars we all agreed it had been a good day out. The dogs had a great time: Trixie was especially lively in the afternoon; I suspect she had had a few slurps of Ivan's beer at the pub. No doubt Brian went home and told Bertie that he had missed a good walk.

Shirley Higgins.

A wet Welsh weekend - otherwise known as the Brecon Beacons weekend
20-22nd January, 1995.

I was the only newcomer to this fourth visit of the Kent Group to the Danywenallt Study Centre, Talybont-on -Usk hence the request from Tom for me to "write something for the newsletter".

At breakfast on Saturday morning all looked clear in the distant hills and I opted for the not-the -A-team walk towards Fan Y Big to be led by Ron Roweth - he promised we would be back about 4 pm. Gentle rain did not deter us from an early start, but once we were quite high up forward motion was getting harder, with strong gales pelting us with drops of rain like bullets!! All surrendered to the elements and, as we retreated towards Danywenallt, the footpaths we had sloshed up not two hours earlier had turned to waterfalls and the roads to rivers. Ron found his cold, wet and bedraggled troop of walkers deciding in increasing numbers that they would prefer to sit eating their packed lunches in front of the wood-burning stove back at the centre. Neil and I were not the first back but we noted dryly (bad pun) that this was the first ever walk that we had finished by mid-day. The continuing heavy rain over the next couple of hours merely confirmed the sagacity of our return. Ron managed to coax a last few walkers round to the nearest pub, but even they were all back by 3 pm, having spent at least 90 minutes in the pub.

I gather the A-team fared a little better in staying-out power. They guessed how to cut a few corners off their route in the Crickhowell area - well they had to - given that Pete Barnett proudly produced a map of the Forest of Dean when the going got tough!

The third group of walkers, with Pauline Barnett in the vanguard, seem to have fared best of all, primarily keeping to the forest tracks above the Talybont reservoir.

On Sunday the A-team consisted of many of the not-the-As from the previous day, who wanted to have another go at Ron's route. They were well rewarded as it was an excellent route, although I wish they had told me I would be walking in snow for the first time!! I am sure Andrew Boulden had a big advantage over me - the snow came up to my knees but barely covered his ankles. Navigation on the top in the mist/rain with the blanket whiteness obscuring the path seemed to me to be a bit hit and miss but I was prepared to hang on in there, as I knew I was in the company of some very experienced walkers (in fact I was the novice and I didn't know where I was, so didn't have any option anyway!).

Regrettably the appointed lunch time pub was closed for a three week holiday, but Ann Beeching provided some welcome extra sustenance in the form of whisky for my coffee - I must try that again sometime. The route back involved successfully negotiating a stream near Aber - this would have been impassable even by white-water rafting the previous day. I can safely say it is the longest walk I have done with wet feet all day - funny the way in the car home I could still feel the water sloshing around!

Everyone else took a slightly lower level local walk, the only "incident" that I am aware of being Pete Barnett slipping in the mud, although I understand that he managed to keep the Forest of Dean map dry!

I gather those who walked in the Forest of Dean on Friday and again near Danywenallt on Monday enjoyed themselves, able to make the most of the time in the area.

The centre was superbly equipped and very comfortable and the company very sociable and totally informal. I'm certain that many participants were secretly glad of their early Saturday finish and the chance to watch the rugby on Saturday afternoon. Washing-up duties were substantially abolished this year, owing to a kitchen refit complete with a dish-washer - future participants might wish to note this luxury. (More time to walk to the pub and back - although one pub was sadly closed due to recent flooding from the canal). It really is a beautiful area and I hope to walk there again with dry feet next time.

When Neil invited me to join his walking colleagues on this, he commented that I would not even see any newspapers on the Saturday, but he walking all day. However, we took pity on all, took our lives in my car, and drove into Brecon, returning via Methyr and the scenic route, with 5 or more papers which were gratefully pounced upon by all. Perhaps reality was better served by another Kent Group member who stated that the weather can be pretty variable in January and that we should be prepared for anything. Well, Danywenallt certainly received a bulk delivery of rain that weekend!!

Sarah Spencer (with comments from Neil Higham)

SOLUTION TO

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



Correct
Solutions were
received
from

Alan Ball

Laurie Lowe

Joyce Tombs

From the "CENTURION" NEWSLETTER

Roubaix 28 hours: "...Pride of place must go to the new Ladies' European Ultra Long Distance Champion, Jill Green who won the Ladies' race in 21st Position (overall) and I expect this wonderful lady finished with a smile as usual."

European Ultra Long Distance Ladies' Champion 1994

Jill Green, described as 'The Centurion Lady of the Smiles', has gained the above title having taken part in a number of Grand Prix qualifying events, including the 210 miles Paris to Colmar about which there was a report in an earlier issue, and having accumulated the highest number of points. She is the second British lady to achieve this honour, Sandra Brown (also an LDWA member) having achieved it in 1990.

As well as winning the Championship Jill raised £2,832 for a British Heart Foundation appeal for ambulances on the Isle of Wight.

The above is a precis of an extract from the 'Centurion' supplied by
Ernie Bishop.

Ed.

Talking of Paris.....

A sponsored walk in aid of 'Help the Aged' is planned for next Spring between Maidstone and Paris using the North Downs Way and various GR routes in northern France. The exact dates are not yet known but anyone who is interested should contact David Sheldrake [REDACTED]

Talking of sponsored walks the Weald of Kent Rotary Club has, very inconsiderately, arranged a 10 mile charity walk from Harrietsham, in aid of Cancer Research, on the same day as Paul's Cream Teas Walk. Even the flesh-pots of the Ringlestone Arms, which the Rotary route passes, would not drag me away from Mary's excellent cream tea, but if you are looking for a shorter walk in mid-summer you could 'phone [REDACTED] to find out more about the Rotary North Downs Walk.

The Kent Churches' Bike Ride and Walk is neither a social walk nor an LDWA event but Martyn Berry and I are amongst Kent Group members who have walked from church to church, being sponsored per church visited, and I hope you will have noted the date, 9th September, and will be looking out for details in the next Newsletter.

Talking of Martyn Berry there were 19 of us on his Sevenoaks Outcrops Walk which was taken at a more leisurely pace than many of our social walks and which was full of archaeological, prehistoric, antiquarian and geological interest. If you have not walked it before or perhaps not in recent years do try and join Martyn next year: I am sure our visitors from Essex felt their journey had been worthwhile.

Tom S.

ALMOST A WALK-OUT

6 intrepid (but perhaps misguided) walking enthusiasts with 2 long suffering dogs set off at 9 a.m on Friday 9th December from Watlingtonbury (water being the word of prime importance) in an attempt to walk-out Ivan Waghorn's night walk which took place in January.

Unfortunately the skies had opened during the preceding days causing the Medway to flood. We found it necessary to cross the bridge at Watlingtonbury to find paths on higher ground to start our walk. When it became necessary to recross the Medway at Barming we had an encounter of the wet kind as our path was under 2 feet of water. This was negotiated with many ooh's and aah's (especially from one of the party who shall be nameless - when the water reached his aah's) except for one highly intelligent comrade who removed her boots and socks, rolled up her trousers and waded through. What a pity we had no camera.

The highlight of the walk-out arose at our pub-stop at East Malling when our "Ed", having removed his socks and boots for drying was seen to be prancing around with only blue plastic boot-covers on both feet and standing before us in the balletic "first position". Surely our "Ed" has missed his vocation.

No doubt the Publican was overjoyed when our departure resulted in the removal from his radiators and fire of some of our damp smelly socks as these could hardly have been appreciated by his dining patrons. For some strange reason the Publican had objected to our dogs being admitted to the bar so obviously he found wet smelly socks preferable to dogs.

After being duly fortified we completed the remainder of the walk which seemed quite uneventful compared to the morning but we did manage to finish on the designated route. A good day was had by all.



Jean Dunton

A copy of the report and results of the 1995 Sevenoaks Circular is enclosed and no doubt it will contain thanks to all marshals etc. May I add my particular thanks to two of our newest members, Diane and Jim James, who set a splendid example to us all by doing the Marshals' Walk, 20 and 30 respectively, willingly turning their hands to anything at our main checkpoint and doing everything cheerfully. Their commonsensical approach is the main requirement for a checkpoint, degrees in cartography - or any other subject - are not required, so don't wait to be asked to help, pick up the 'phone to whoever is i/c marshals on the next event and offer. Thanks to Brian B for the report and to Bryan C for printing it so promptly and for the following contribution:-

THE PUNCHBOWL MARATHON 1995

After a period of rain the Punchbowl Marathon took place on a dry, cool but misty day which was nice for walking but not for the views which we usually get on this walk.

At the start there was a good crowd of Kent Group walkers who set off at 8 o'clock with Ann Beeching and Jill Green getting away very quickly across the Recreation Ground to disappear from our sight until we saw them relaxed and waiting at the finish.

The remainder of the Kent members gradually spread out and were to be seen occasionally coming and going at checkpoints. I was with Trevor Blake and Maurice Hassell and we kept together all the walk. We had a few hesitations owing to the route description which seemed to us to be a little vague in places. However, we enjoyed ourselves, which is the main thing, and managed to finish before it became dark.

The result sheet made interesting reading when it arrived. There were two J James of London - is this our Jim James? How did he do it? More remarkable was what happened to Pam Prince. She was clearly her usual feminine self at the start but apparently finished as Sam Prince. We must be cautious of the Punchbowl Marathon in the future! Although I spoke with Philip Boston at the finish I could not find his name on the result sheet. Another mystery was what happened to Frank Hewson and Jackie Newman. They were not recorded at any checkpoint - have they been found? Has Jackie's husband Don, who was recorded and finished, missed her? There were six other walkers who also apparently did not reach the first checkpoint.

Bryan C.

Contributions for the next issue should reach me by Monday 3rd July, (July pub meeting) please. I shall leave the last word to one of the aforementioned newer members.

Tom Sinclair

THE KENT INITIATION CEREMONY

It was with some trepidation that Jim and I set off to our first meeting with the Kent LDWA. We are not natural club members and feared there would be all manner of physical and mental hoops to be jumped before being accepted into the inner sanctum. We chose to attend the "Another 5 Pointed Star" walk which appeared to be sufficiently mysteriously named to support our initial fears.

Our fears, of course, were all groundless as Tom Sinclair warmly welcomed us to his walk and introduced us to the well-known characters of Kent LDWA. It seems to me that to really get on in the group you need to be named Brian, Dave or Jim, so at least one of us had a head start!

The walk was full of local historical interest, challenge, mud and a very pleasant pub stop in West Malling where Jim managed to amaze everyone by downing an inordinate amount of beer and yet was still able to make the climb onto the downs in the afternoon. I understand that some Kent members were taking bets that 10/1 he would not complete the walk. If they had asked my advice I could tell them that he not only has hollow legs but is a complete walking junkie!

I am pretty sure that every single member of the group found time to come and talk to us both during the walk and by the end of the day, we were certain that we wanted to repeat the experience. We were given advice on entering events and soon found ourselves at the 11th Gatliff where Jim completed his first marathon and I was lucky enough to walk the 12 mile route with Brian Clarke and his family. I have found that the enjoyment derived out of such walks is not only through the challenge but also by participating in interesting conversations. However, I have not discovered why Kent members tend to become monosyllabic on hillsides - is it one of their weird initiation rites?

Diane James

**LDWA - KENT GROUP
ORGANISATION OF EVENTS**

Event	Sevenoaks Circular		High Weald		Wealden Waters	
	Marshals' Walk	Main Event	Marshals' Walk	Main Event	Marshals' Walk	Main Event
Route Planning	Brian Buttifant, Tom Sinclair		Ernie Bishop		Shirley Higgins, Laurie Lowe, Ron Roweth and Tom Sinclair	
Route Checking	Shirley Higgins, Laurie Lowe, Ron Roweth, and Tom Sinclair		Shirley Higgins, Laurie Lowe, Ron Roweth, and Tom Sinclair		Keith Warman	
Entries	Brian Buttifant		Ernie Bishop		Paul Hatcher	
Marshals	Brian Buttifant		Ernie Bishop		Neal O'Rourke	
Checkpoint venues	Brian Buttifant		Brian Buttifant		Brian Buttifant	
Food	Paul Hatcher		Paul Hatcher		Paul Hatcher	
Equipment	Kevin Puttock		Kevin Puttock		Kevin Puttock	
Printing	Bryan Clarke		Bryan Clarke		Bryan Clarke	
Results	Bryan Clarke		Bryan Clarke		Bryan Clarke	
Certificate and badges (Design and Stock)	Keith Warman		Keith Warman		Keith Warman	
Start Administration	Brian Buttifant		Ernie Bishop		Neal O'Rourke	
Finish - clearing up team	Brian Buttifant		Ernie Bishop		Neal O'Rourke	