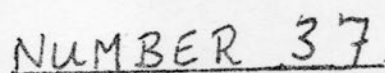




NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 1995

COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN.....RON ROWETH
TREASURER.....ALAN BALL
SECRETARY.....DAVID SHELDRAKE

MEMBERS

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

KENT GROUP PROGRAMME AUGUST TO DECEMBER 1995

SUN AUG 13 ANDREDSWEALD CIRCUIT - SUMMER HIGH WEALD WALK
25 miles from Forest Row Village Hall (GR 425353).
8.30 a.m. start (runners 10 a.m.) BRING OWN MUG.
Offers of help to Ernie Bishop on

SAT/SUN SEPT 2/3 WEALDEN WATERS MARSHALS' WALK. For anyone
helping on main event. Entry forms from Paul
Hatcher; offers of help to Neil O'Rourke.

SAT SEPT 9 FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES BIKE RIDE/WALK
Non-LDWA event. List of open churches (free
drinks and eats at most) and sponsor form from
Tom Sinclair. Devise own route.

SUN SEPT 17 LES TROIS CHATEAUX ENCORE. 34 miles approx.
Linking Scotney, Bodiam and Sissinghurst
castles. Meet Cranbrook C.P. near windmill,
GR 776359. Start 7.30 a.m. SHARP. Possible pub
stop. Leader: Maurice Faircloth.

SUN OCT 1 LONGFIELD WALK. Meet Longfield car park
(not station) GR 602690. 18 miles approx.
9 a.m. start. Pub stop. Leader: Trevor
Blake

SAT/SUN OCT 14/15 WEALDEN WATERS WALK - contact Neil
O'Rourke to find out how YOU can help.

SUN NOV 13 PLAXTOL FLOD. Meet 8.45 a.m. Western Road
Car Park, Borough Green, GR607573.
16 miles approx. Food available at pub.
Leader Tom Sinclair

SUN DEC 3 ANNUAL FAMILY LUNCH AND WALK. Short morning
walk then meal at Weald of Kent Golf Club.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

First Monday of each month (unless that is a Bank Holiday when it is postponed to the second Monday) at 'The Provender', Pye Corner, Ulcombe, GR853486, 8 p.m. onwards.

Dear Fellow Kent Group Members,
For various reasons (I was in the Lake district for the Harrietsham Hop and I shall be in Norfolk for Dave's evening walk) I have missed all the social walks since April but other people have told me that they were all enjoyable.

I shall still be in Norfolk for the Andredsweald Circuit Marshals' Walk on 30th July but, like many others, I have offered to help on 13th August. If you have not already done so please 'phone Ernie Bishop on [REDACTED]

ALSO please contact Neil O'Rourke on [REDACTED] with offers of help on the Wealden Waters, Marshals' Walk or main event, 2/3 September or 14/15 October.

We have been asked to run the checkpoint at the finish, in Settle, on the Yorkshire Hundred, on May 25. 26 and 27, 1996, so please 'phone Paul Hatcher [REDACTED] with offers to serve food, etc. as soon as possible so that our Committee can let West Yorkshire Group know if we can do it.

Hearty congratulations to all those who completed the Shropshire Hundred, Marshals' Walk and Main Event. Thanks to those who helped on the Kent Group checkpoint, have been received from Ken and Diane from Selsey, West Sussex, who would like all our 'helpers to know that their hard work and inconvenience did not go unappreciated'.

NEW GROUP SWEATSHIRTS AND T-SHIRTS

These are still available from Kevin Puttock [REDACTED] in green and Blue at £13 each.

AND Keith Warman has stocks of badges as follows:-

Kent Group Badge	£1.25
Sevenoaks Circular Badge	£1.00
Wealden Waters Badge (New)	£1.50
Wealden Waters Badge (Old)	£0.50

Write to Keith at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] with order, S.A.B. and cheque to 'Kent LDWA Group'.

PROGRAMME OF WALKS - JANUARY TO APRIL 1996

If anybody is able to provide a walk during the period January to April next year please let me know either in writing or by 'phone. Full details must be sent to me by 19th September at the latest in order that the programme may be included in 'Strider'.

David Sheldrake.

ANNUAL FAMILY LUNCH AND WALK

Sunday 3rd December 1994

The day will commence with a 5/6 mile walk from the Golf Club at 10.00 a.m. On returning at 1.00 p.m. (approx.) showers will be available. We will have exclusive use of our own Bar. Carvery lunch (vegetarian meal also available) to commence at 2.15 p.m. Cost: £13 per head; Children under 12: half price, under fives free. Send your cheque, payable to "LDWA Kent Group", with the enclosed form to: Andrew Boulden, [REDACTED] by November 15 at the latest.

THE (NOT SO) MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

Having read with some interest in the last newsletter (36) about the magnificent seven's good deed for the day, for future reference (writes John P) if you should find a sheep tangled in brambles on no account take a Swiss Army, or any other, knife to it.

By the time the shearing comes round the cut bramble will be well and truly embedded into the fleece: the shepherd needs to manhandle the sheep to shear it - not a pleasant thing to do unless you have a leather working suit.

After the shearing (which is very difficult with brambles attached) the bramble has to be cut out thus ruining the fleece. You get no thanks from the farmer and very little praise from the shepherd who has had to do the shearing; if in doubt call the stockman.

Now for the good bit of the good deed: the chances are that you will come across a sheep in this predicament (sheep are such stupid animals; if one jumps in the air on the run the rest of the flock are just as likely to do the same).

Approach the animal from the front so that she can see you, the fright is less even though her mad struggle will be just the same. Try to hold her between two of you and stop her jumping about, put your arms under her, grab a front and back leg furthest from you, lift and pull and you will have her lying on her side; drag the poor thing away from the brambles and the branch will slowly tear itself out of the fleece without pain to the sheep.

N.B. SLOWLY so as not to break the bramble.

As soon as the old girl is free let go and she is up and away none the worse and not carrying around a load of gear that can cause such damage to the shepherd's arms as would make you think of a razor attack.

Some of my best years were spent on a farm in Kent and one never forgets a practical lesson.

John Probert 524

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NEW VENUE FOR PUB MEETINGS

As many of you may remember a discussion took place at this year's A.G.M. on the subject of venues for pub meetings. Some people thought the current meetings at the 'Provender' were too far from the majority of Kent members.

The group has now found another venue for its pub meets: 'The Horse and Groom', Wrotham Hill, Stansted, which is situated on the A.20 between Wrotham and West Kingsdown.

It is intended to alternate the monthly meetings between the two venues with the first meeting at 'The Horse and Groom' on the first Monday in February 1996. David Sheldrake.

WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. C. Morgan, [REDACTED]

Kim Dron, [REDACTED]

Peter Berry, [REDACTED]

Jean Clements, [REDACTED]

Bob Gay, [REDACTED]

Shirllie S. Gill, [REDACTED]

Elizabeth Bradshaw, [REDACTED]

Peter Watson, [REDACTED]

Jacqueline Anne Storey, [REDACTED]

J.J. Herrington, [REDACTED]

Alan Lawson, [REDACTED]

I am reliably informed that the last-named was amongst the 15 group members who completed the Marshals' Walk of the Andredsweald Circuit on Sunday 30th July and who were very appreciative of Ron's 'Water Wagon' at road-crossings as the weather conditions have been described as 'Saharan'. I am also told that one lady decided to run (presumably in the hope that she would not be out in the midday sun for quite so long, another lady (remarkably) completed the walk without a 'bush-stop' and that two gentlemen, one much younger than the other, overtook some slower walkers TWICE.....plus a change...!

Thanks to Ernie Bishop for organising the walk through some lovely and very varied countryside. Contact him on [REDACTED] about the main event on Sunday 13th August either to offer help or, if he has enough helpers, to walk the 25-mile route on the day.

THE SHROPSHIRE 100

Scene 1

Enter stage left the Sheldrakes, surveying the battlefield that must be transformed into an efficient field kitchen. "Where are the catering ovens and implements?" they were heard to utter. Alas, only two ovens of the domestic variety were available and only one could be used at a time without blowing an electrical fuse. There were no saucepans, oven trays or serving implements, so the scene looked bleak indeed for the 500+ competitors and helpers who were expecting hot food at this station.

Enter stage right, Jackie, Paul, Mary, Diane and Jim all enthusiastic for the new day. They say that necessity is the mother of invention, so gradually some method was achieved. As the morning wore on, a catering oven and warming cupboard arrived. It was then that supercooks Dave and Jim galvanised into action and were able to cook, serve and plate meals in readiness for the rush. Paul Hatcher realised that the use of plastic spoons to serve Shepherds Pie, Lasagne and Ice Cream was taking this "invention" thing a bit too far and so he went off to purchase proper implements.

Meanwhile, the two Jackies and Mary were grappling with a temperamental water boiler in order to provide for the increasing requests for hot drinks. In order to keep out of Jim's way in the kitchen, Diane decided to carry out a stock take to establish the amount of vegetarian food which was available and also to track down more peas, as it appeared there was only one 5lb pack. It was then that she discovered under some bubble pack wrapping a 10 foot high pile of gently defrosting frozen food. On top of this pile, hidden from view was a bag containing serving implements!!

In the kitchen, the hot water ran out, the sink became blocked and the air cooling system never came on. However, Jackie soon became a dab hand with a sink plunger and at least one facility was restored. (Jim offered Jackie a job as a plumber's mate but strangely she declined).

The "invention" thing raised its head again with the desserts, surely the fruit crumbles had some topping to make them more palatable. On looking in the deep freeze we found 1½ tubs of ice cream which we duly used. When this quickly ran out we came to the realisation that perhaps the aforementioned vanilla gelato belonged to someone else. This suspicion was confirmed when we read the notice on the deep freeze which said "Deep Freeze For Sports Centre Use Only". Ah well c'est la vie!

As 6 o'clock approached, we were all glad to see the relief team arrive and also very glad to see the back of the food which was beginning to make us all feel a little nauseous. However, we all enjoyed ourselves, had a few laughs during the day and congratulated ourselves that the Kent group could be relied upon "to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear".

THE REIVERS' WAY

The Reivers' Way is a long distance route of 150 miles in Northumberland. The word 'reiver' means robber and the trail takes its name from the raiders who were famous for their activities in the Border Country. The walk starts from Corbridge Station and finishes at Alnmouth Station so it is easily accessible by public transport.

It is a super route taking in a wonderful variety of scenery. We walked through lush meadows filled with wild flowers, along leafy riverside paths and over bleak moorland with curlew and grouse for company. We visited the remains of the Roman fort at Housesteads and strode for a couple of miles along Hadrian's Wall. The least enjoyable part for me was the middle section, where much of the route is through conifer plantations. I found these tedious and claustrophobic: the forest seems to stifle all forms of life. After the small market town of Wooler the Way becomes more gentle and pastoral, passing through farms with small herds of cattle and fields of whispering barley. On our ninth and final day we were blown down the coast from Bamburgh to Alnmouth by gale-force North winds. We had envisaged strolling along the shore in shorts with frequent stops to soak up the sun. In reality we were wrapped up in jackets and trousers a protection from the cold wind. However it was a marvellous, exhilarating day. Sometimes we were walking along the beach, sometimes through the dunes or over the cliff top covered with sweet-smelling gorse.

This is a challenging walk and will be enjoyed by those prepared to work with map and compass rather than those who like to follow an easy, way-marked trail. Some of the terrain is very rough and good leather boots are essential. My brother set out in Gore-tex lined fabric boots. He assured me that they were waterproof, but they were quickly reduced to sodden pulp by peat bogs and long wet grass so his feet were squelching about in cold dirty water. When we reached Rothbury on the fifth evening he decided to buy a pair of leather boots: the only pair that fitted cost £165! Fortunately they were comfortable but he had to carry the discarded fabric boots so his pack was heavier and his bank balance lighter for the rest of the holiday.

In some places along the route accommodation is plentiful but in other areas there are only isolated farms and these need to be booked in advance. We stayed at one lonely farm tucked away in a fold of the Cheviot Hills. The farmer's wife told me that the nearest shops are 21 miles away by road and she goes shopping 4 times a year!

I found the Reivers' Way a satisfactory and adventurous walk and would recommend it to anyone who likes walking in wild remote country.

Shirley Higgins.

Shirley's tale about her brother's boots reminds me of a cartoon in Jim Watson's 'On More Feet and Fingers' in which 'the missus' is saying to the departing walker: "After what you paid for those boots, don't you go getting them dirty!"

THE SHROPSHIRE 100

A View from behind an Apron

Arriving for the second (6 p.m. to 2 a.m.) shift it was a surprise to find that we were to be cooking the food as well as serving it but the first shift had got a good system going and we tried to follow that. Bryan, as a waiter person (mercifully NOT in short black skirt and fishnet stockings), was soon involved in setting tables for the walkers who, as expected, arrived in large numbers during the late evening. Pat and Marieanne Blake settled in behind the tea and coffee table and were soon gently steaming away in the evening sunshine coming through the window behind them and the simmering kettles and urns around them.

Trevor Blake made an efficient head cook while Joyce and Richard Toombs, dashing around like two-year olds, dished up plates of cottage pie and vegetable lasagne and stocked up the 'keep-warm' cabinet. Fortunately the gas oven was in the main hall as the kitchen was unventilated and reminiscent of a very hot sauna. Other Kent Group members (Brian B, Ron and Anne, Ivan and Sue V and Kevin P) undertook a wide variety of jobs including putting markers across a playing field about 400 yards from the finish as walkers were getting lost there (a compass bearing on the route description would have helped!) and putting toilet rolls in the gents. (I remember Kent Group members doing that task on the Dartmoor 100 as well so perhaps a tradition has been established. Ed.)

Those two paragraphs are a very abbreviated version of a much longer report by Pat and Bryan Clarke but Diane James's article has already set the scene for those of us who were not there and I have a feeling that those who were there might not welcome too many reminders! Nevertheless the certificate, the badge (as reproduced in black and white on the cover of this issue), the laminated route description with linear maps, the well designed check-card and the friendly checkpoints all received favourable comments from the walkers.

I had hoped that one of those who actually walked the Shropshire 100 would have written something for this Newsletter but perhaps that was unrealistic of me - I cannot imagine putting pen to paper after 50 miles, let alone 100, myself. Contributions for the December issue should reach me by Monday 6th November at the very latest. Other dates for your diary:- Friday 19th to Sunday 21st January 1996 Brecon Beacons Weekend; (contact Peter Barnett on [redacted] 28th January 1996 A.G.M. at Wye Village Hall; Sunday 3rd March Marshals' Walk Sevenoaks Circular; Sunday 17th March Sevenoaks Circular. (Offers of help to Brian Buttifant [redacted])

Tom Sinclair, [redacted]