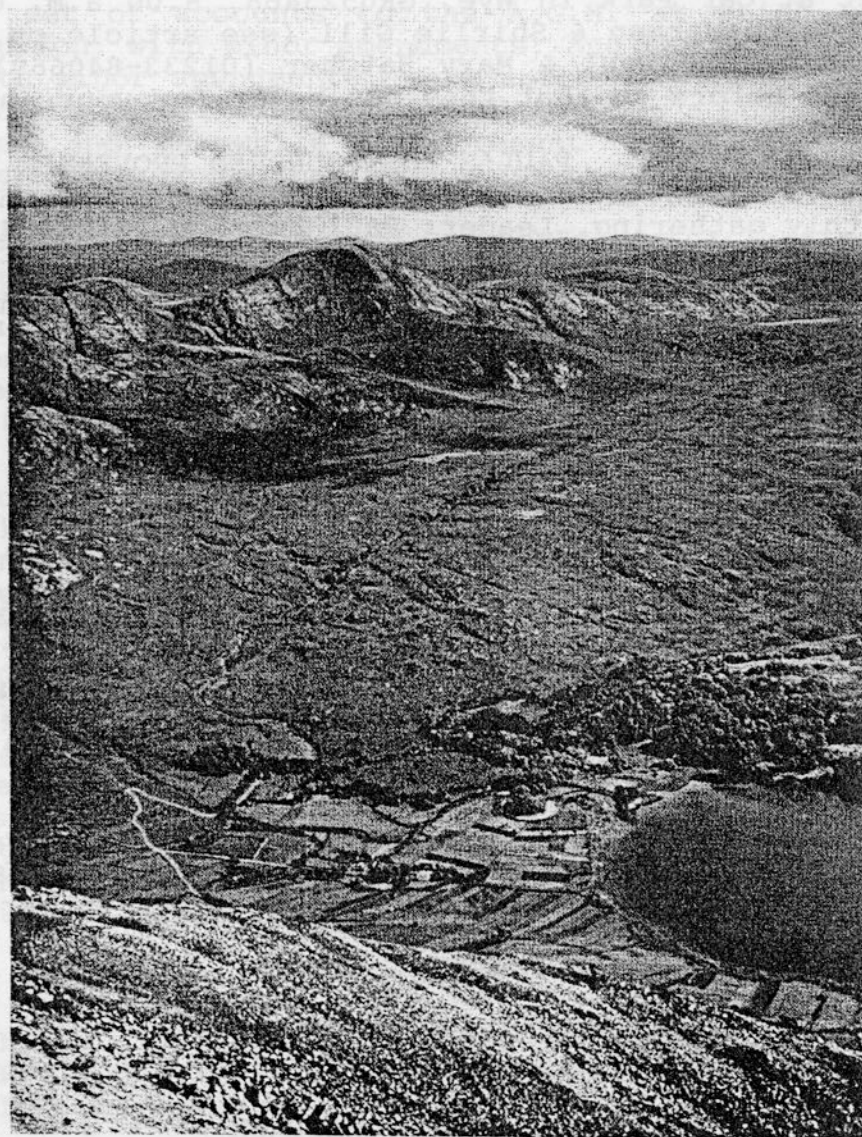




LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION *Kent Group*

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

NEWSLETTER



Slieve Snacht from Errigal, Co. Donegal

Number 48

April 1999

LDWA KENT GROUP PROGRAMME APRIL - AUGUST 1999

- MON APR 12 THE PROVENDER, ULCOMBE, GR853486, 8 p.m.
- SUN APR 25 SHIRLEY'S SELLING STROLL
Meet at Selling Station, GR052572, 8.30 a.m. start. Pub stop
Stalisfield Green. Leader: Shirley Higgins [REDACTED].
- MON MAY 10 TOM'S TINY TODDLE
Meet 7 p.m., Rose & Crown, Wrotham, GR612592, for 6 ml.stroll
before monthly gathering. Leader: Tom Sinclair [REDACTED].
- SUN JUN 6 A KENTISH KANTER
26 OR 20 mls. 8.30 to 9.30 a.m. start for a social "kanter" with
clues. Meet at Car Park in Wye, GR0523468, 8.00 a.m. onwards.
Planned by Keith Warman & Shirly Gill (see article on a later
page). Organised by Paul & Mary Hatcher [REDACTED]. Phone
them the week before so that they can cater for your appetite!
- MON JUN 7 PAUL'S POST-HUNDRED PROVENDER POTTER
Meet 7 p.m., The Provender, Ulcombe, GR853486, for 6ml. stroll
before monthly gathering. Leader: Paul Hatcher [REDACTED].
- SUN JUN 13 ON THE TILES
22ml. Start 9 a.m. from Bradford Street c.p., Tonbridge,
GR589464, Landranger 188, Explorer 147. No Pub Stop. Bring packed
lunch. Includes final NEW section of 1999 Wealden Waters Walk -
72 and 100 km. routes. Leader: Keith Warman [REDACTED].
- SUN JUN 27 CREAM TEAS WALK
20ml. approx. Meet 8.30 a.m. Pluckley Village, near Church,
GR926454, pub stop. Leader: Paul Hatcher [REDACTED].
- MON JUL 5 THE ROSE AND CROWN, WROTHAM, GR612592, 8 p.m.
- SUN JUL 18 STELLING MINNIS STOMP.
18-20 mls. Meet at Ivy House, Stelling Minnis, GR147483, for 9
a.m. start. Pub stop. Leader: Liz Keeler [REDACTED].
- SUN JUL 25 SUMMER HIGH WEALD MARSHALS' WALK
Meet in the car park next to the "White Hart" in Wadhurst,
GR642318. 8.30 a.m. start. 25 miles. OS maps 188 and 189. Entry
forms from Ernie Bishop [REDACTED] or at pub gatherings.
- MON AUG 2 THE PROVENDER, ULCOMBE, GR853486, 8 p.m.
- SUN AUG 8 SUMMER HIGH WEALD WALK
Offers of help to Ernie Bishop [REDACTED].
- SUN AUG 22 LES TROIS CHATEAUX
34 mile UNSUPPORTED walk linking Scotney, Bodiam and Sissinghurst
Castles. Meet at Cranbrook car park near Windmill, GR776359, for
a PROMPT 7.30 a.m. start. Pub stop. Leader: Maurice Faircloth
[REDACTED]. ONLY for walkers able to complete the distance.
- (Committee members, with 'phone numbers, at bottom of next page).

Dear Fellow Kent Group members,

It is the day after the A.G.M. and I am putting aside the Secretary's task of writing the minutes but picking up the Editorial (quill) pen. Some postage costs were saved by handing out the last (December 1998) issue to several people at the finish of the "Gatliff", where Neil Higham had posted news of Sarah having given birth to a son, Oliver, (NOT "Henry Gatliff" as has been rumoured by some!) earlier that morning.

More postage and printing costs were incurred by the Secretary in sending out to all members the new "model" constitution which had reached him too late for the Committee to consider it before the notices and agendas were despatched. Nevertheless the father of the aforesaid Oliver was able to present a very healthy looking set of accounts to the A.G.M. at which the "model" constitution, with minor amendments, and the Kent Group bylaws, also with minor amendments, were approved. Both will come into force as and when the National LDWA becomes a Company Limited by Guarantee and meanwhile the present (1985) will remain in operation. (Any member can always ask the Secretary for a copy).

Many thanks to Tom Bowman and Duncan Brice for leading the walks (9 and 6 miles respectively) in the morning and to Hilary Thornburgh for arranging the provision of a buffet lunch. At the ensuing A.G.M. Tom Bowman and Ken Heath were the new members elected to the Committee in place of Keith Warman (3 years' service) and Jim Oddy (2 years) who retired by rotation and were thanked for their work as Committee members.

Enough of A.G.M. matters! By the time you read this the minutes should have been written, typed, approved by the Committee in accordance with the constitution, duplicated and stuffed into the envelopes with this newsletter and, I hope, the report and results of the twenty-fifth Sevenoaks Circular.

After Ulster's splendid victory in the European Rugby Cup I shall be looking out some photographs of the grand walking country in the nine counties of the ancient province to adorn this issue. Many thanks, as ever, to all contributors. Offers to lead social walks should reach me by 15th May (St. Mary's North Downs Challenge Walks, see a later page) and contributions for the August Newsletter by Monday 5th July.

Tom Sinclair,

COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN.....PAUL HATCHER
SECRETARY.....TOM SINCLAIR
TREASURER.....NEIL HIGHAM

MEMBERS

ANDREW BOULDEN , TOM BOWMAN , BRIAN BUTTIFANT , KEN HEATH , HILARY & ROGER THORNBURGH , JIM ODDY (co-opted)

**BOOKS. MAPS & GUIDES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND ABROAD
FOR THE USE OF GROUP MEMBERS**

The following is a list of books, maps and guides to various walks within the U.K. and abroad. Some are very detailed whilst others are somewhat sketchy and would need to be supplemented by the appropriate O.S. maps or their nearest equivalent. Any member is welcome to borrow any of the items listed and should contact me on [REDACTED] to see if it is/they are available and to arrange collection, say, in the pub at a monthly gathering.

TREVOR BLAKE.

CATEGORY 1, LOCAL WALKS IN KENT & THE HOME COUNTIES

TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER
A. Medway Valley Path (2)	K.C.C.
B. Elham Valley Way (2)	K.C.C.
C. Greensand Way in Kent	K.C.C.
D. Greensand Way (Haslemere - Ham Street)	K.C.C.
E. Darent Valley Path(Sevenoaks-Dartford)	K.C.C.
F. Stour Valley Walk (5)	K.C.C.
G. High Weald Walk (2)	K.C.C.
H. Eden Valley Walk	K.C.C.
I. Country Walks in Tonbridge/ Malling	K.C.C.
J. 5 Circular Walks in Tonbridge/Malling	K.C.C.
K. 14 Walks around Tonbridge	Tonbridge Civic Society
L. 7 Walks in Sevenoaks	Sevenoaks District Council
M. 4 Country Park Walks in Kent	K.C.C.
N. 4 Centenary Walks through Kent	K.C.C.

CATEGORY 2, LONGER WALKS THROUGHOUT GREAT BRITAIN

A. The North Downs Way (2)	K.C.C.
B. The North Downs Way	John Hawell
C. Walking the North Downs Way	Mark Chapman
D. Circular Walks around the N.D.W.	K.C.C.
E. The Ridgeway Path	Sean Jenet
F. Along the South Downs Way	Eastbourne Ramblers
G. 30 Weekend Walks in Britain	Automobile Association
H. The Cotswold Way	Kevin Reynolds
I. The Pembrokeshire Coast Path	John H. Barret
J. Walking Old Railways in G.B.	Cris Sommerfield
K. The West Highland Way	Scottish Countryside Commission
L. Literary Walks around Great Britain	Jeremy Evans

CATEGORY 3, WALKING ABROAD

A. Walking in France	Rob Hunter
B. Walking in France	Rob Hunter
C. Local Walks around Alpbach, Austria	Local Press
D. Local walks around Oberau, Austria	Local Press
E. Great Smoky Mountains Trail	U.S. Dept. of Interior.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS

I thought the following quotation from our local newspaper might be worth re-producing in the Kent Newsletter:-

"The ramblers are just a bunch of the dirty mac brigade. The great unwashed. They're disgusting creatures. Would you have a lot of herberts in your garden?" - Property tycoon Nicholas van Hoogstraten who has blocked a footpath through his multi-million pound Sussex estate.

From our Devonian (or Silurian?) Correspondent, Ivan Verrell.

BRECHE DE ROLANDE

I read Laurie's account of his walking in the Auvergne with interest. The Cantal region is delightful, especially away from the honeypots. The finest peak - both in appearance and as a very gentle scramble - is Puy Grion, a few km. S.S.E. of Puy Mary. I have to tell Laurie, Jean and Shirley that the last time I was there, a few years ago, I found three young Brits taking mountain bikes over the Breche de Rolande.....

The more famous Breche de Rolande is in the Pyrenees, above Gavarnie. It is both sensational and (in good weather) easily attainable. Cars can be left (if you get there early enough!) at the Col de Boucharol/Port Gavarnie at about 2,200m. A very bouldery track, which crosses a couple of streams, leads to the Refuge de Sarradate (2,570m.). When I was there, in August, the ascent to the Breche was a snow plod in a trench dug by thousands of pounding feet. Patches of moraine were a bit sliddery, but hardly anyone had an axe, nor needed one.

The Breche is a square-cut gap sliced from an amazingly thin shark's fin of rock which rises about 100m. on each side. The views are wonderful: lush to the French north, across the Cirque de Gavarnie to huge rock folds and the waterfall and almost Saharan to the Spanish south.

A perfectly safe, if occasionally steep and scree-y, walk of about an hour to the west leads to the summit of Le Taillon (3,144m.) - another astonishing viewpoint and the only mountain over 10,000 feet I've ever got up! Martyn Berry.

WELCOME

To Fiona King, Eve Reynolds and Brian Squibb who have joined the Group since the last issue and to anyone else I may have missed.
Tom S.

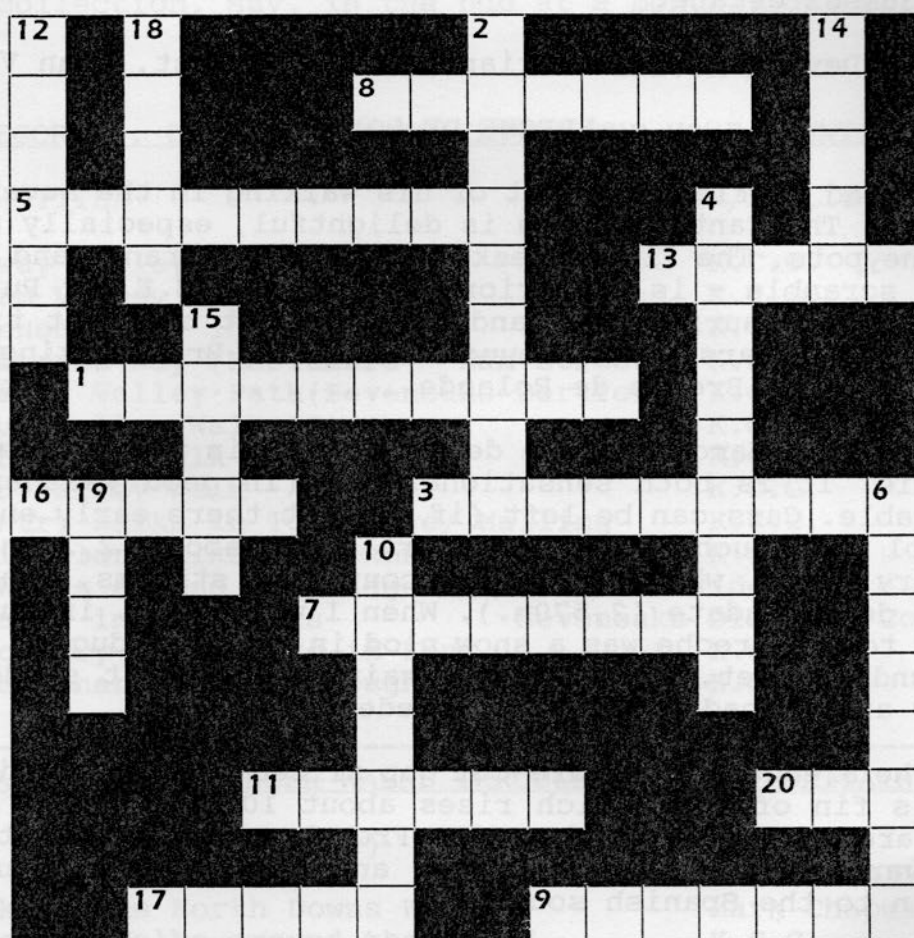
NEW ADDRESSES

Ken Heath, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Pamela Prince, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PUZZLE CORNER PAGE ONE

20 Places in Kent



Clues across:

- 1. People's rock.(10)
- 3. Five plus two trees.(9)
- 5. Stretched out paddock.(9)
- 7. Good chair.(8)
- 8. Burning.(7)
- 9. Over cooked.(7)
- 11 Harry's mixed up.(6)
- 13 A moated castle.(5)
- 16 Short laugh in a tree.(5)
- 17. Old port.(5)
- 20. After the fire.(3)

Clues down:

- 2. Has this young lady a skin colour?(9)
- 4. Mr Worth is happy.(9)
- 6. Is this certainly a cooked pig's leg.(8)
- 10 A seaside resort.(7)
- 12. Cakes.(6)
- 14. Clump of trees.(5)
- 15. Mix 'n' able.(5)
- 18. Abbreviated pants.(5)
- 19. Sounds like a cover up.(4)

PUZZLE CORNER PAGE TWO

When you have completed the puzzle
opposite find the same 20 places in the
Wordsquare below.

Answers in the next issue.

M	J	S	L	K	P	V	B	H	M	Z	O	F	N	F
T	A	K	Y	K	B	L	E	A	N	N	M	O	D	A
X	G	I	D	K	K	D	H	I	W	A	B	L	F	I
V	E	B	D	G	J	N	T	Y	H	Y	L	K	Q	R
I	T	E	A	S	R	D	G	L	Z	X	E	E	U	S
B	A	L	F	U	T	Z	E	C	C	L	E	S	H	E
H	G	Z	B	S	H	O	R	E	H	A	M	T	D	A
T	R	Q	I	C	C	Q	N	G	N	M	O	O	L	T
R	A	P	K	K	H	E	V	E	R	E	U	N	E	O
O	M	K	A	T	A	X	P	I	D	Z	Q	E	I	X
W	I	E	G	A	R	Y	A	R	S	H	K	W	F	B
E	V	O	R	G	I	X	S	R	S	P	W	J	G	P
R	Q	T	H	O	N	G	E	H	Y	T	H	E	N	X
E	H	B	Z	K	G	F	S	X	X	P	L	Z	O	K
M	B	U	T	S	K	A	O	N	E	V	E	S	L	T

1999 WEALDEN WATERS

This year will be the first in which a sub-committee has been set up to administer and organise the Wealden Waters.

Wishing to inject some changes into the 1999 event (albeit with the constraints imposed by the work involved in the forthcoming Millennium Hundred), it has been decided to offer an alternative 45 miles route as well as the 62 miles event. Walkers opting for the shorter route will be taken by bus or car to a point 17 miles into the longer route (this will be somewhere in Ashdown Forest). To fit in with Checkpoint times, it means they will start at a later time and, of course, will still have to go through the night!

For both routes, there will be three minor changes from 1998 in the section between Forest Row and Bough Beech. Also there will be a new final 12 miles section from Tonbridge to Tunbridge Wells. The existing section from Tonbridge (via Pembury) has often received some criticism due to the tediously flat section to Five Oak Green and also for the long road section in the last 3 miles of the route. The new final section has been devised so that it includes a visit to High Rocks - as did the original 1981 route.

Dark evenings spent poring over Explorer maps and a beautiful January day in the field have proved fruitful in devising this final section. The route picks up The Wealdway and goes via Lower Haysden, Bidborough and Speldhurst (where the final checkpoint will be). It then follows parts of the High Weald Walk to Bullingstone, Langton Green, High Rocks and to The Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells, before using "twittens" back to the finish at the Tennis Club.

I hope that the new 45 miles route will attract people who may feel that they can cope comfortably with 25-30 miles events but for whom an overnight 62 miles seems a bit daunting. It should give good practice for those wishing to attempt an overnight event for the first time. It is the Committee's wish that the 45 miles route is offered on the Marshals' Walk on 4th/5th September 1999 to give Kent Group members the opportunity to try this distance. Completion of the shorter route will NOT qualify towards a Southern Triple Challenge award - you have to struggle around the 62 miles route for that! (The Southern Triple Challenge is completion of three 62 miles events - the Wealden Waters, the Surrey Summits and the Three Forests Way - done consecutively).

For those wishing to qualify for the Millennium Hundred, the 62 miles Wealden Waters Marshals' event (on 4th/5th September this year) will be the ideal opportunity!

On a practical note, you may like to note in your diaries Sunday 13th June 1999 - I shall be leading a social walk (On The Tiles - see Group programme inside the front cover) which will be approximately 22 miles and will include the new last 12 miles of the Wealden Waters. As well as being an agreeable summer day's outing, it should prove a good source of recceing for this night-time section. Please note there will be no pub stop so bring a packed lunch or whatever. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Finally, if you have not already responded to the questionnaire sent out with the AGM papers, and if you are able to offer marshalling services over the weekend of 9th/10th October for the main Wealden Waters event, please contact Roger or Hilary Thornburgh, telephone number [REDACTED]

Keith Warman

SUNDRY SUMMITS

During a recent conversation at "The Provender" Ivan Waghorn passed me a cutting from the "Daily Mail" with this list:-

Avon, East Harptree, 867'	Beds., Dunstable Down, 798'	Berks., Walbury Hill, 974'
Bucks., Wendover Woods, 876'	Cambs., Great Chishill, 478'	Cheshire, Shining Tor, 1,834'
Cleveland, Gisborough Moor, 1,078'	Cornwall, Brown Willy, 1,377'	Cumbria, Scafell Pike, 3,219'
Derbyshire, Kinder Scout, 2,088'	Devon, High Wilhays, 2,038,	Durham, Mickel Fell, 2,591'
East Sussex, Ditchling Beacon, 813'	Essex, Oldfield Grove, 482'	Glos., Cleeve Cloud, 1,083'
Hants., Pilot Hill, 937'	Herefd. & Worcs., Black Mountains, 2,306'	Herts., Hastoe, 802'
Humberside, Cot Nab, 807'	Kent Westerham Hill, 824'	Lancashire, Gregareth, 2,057'
Leics., Bardonia Hill, 916'	Lincs., Normanby-Le-Wold, 551'	London, Westerham Heights, 809'
Manchester, Featherbed Moss, 1,774'	Merseyside, Billinge Hill 589'	Norfolk, Roman Camp Beacon, 344'
Northants., Arbury Hill, 734'	Northumberland, The Cheviot, 2,674'	North Yorks., Wharfedale, 2,415'
Notts., Herrod's Hill 663'	Oxfordshire, Whitehorse Hill, 856'	Shropshire, Brown Clee Hill, 1,772'
Scilly Isles, St. Mary's, 166'	Somerset, Dunkery Beacon, 1,705'	South Yorks., Margarey Hill, 1,791'
Staffs., Oliver Hill, 1,684'	Suffolk, Rede, 419'	Surrey, Leith Hill, 965'
Tyne & Wear, Chopwell, 851'	Warwicks., Ilmington Downs, 854'	West Midlands, Turner's Hill, 882'
W. Sussex, Black Down Hill, 919',	W. Yorks., Black Hill, 1,908',	Isle of Wight, St. Boniface Down, 785'
Wiltshire, Milk Hill and Tan Hill, both 964'.		

Ivan suggested that some members might be interested in reaching each of these summits in their travels but whether Ivan himself is contemplating "notching them up" was not revealed. I shall enquire about Mickel Fell when we are up in those parts for

THE DURHAM DALES HUNDRED - 29-31 MAY

For this year's "100" Kent Group will be running the last checkpoint before the finish (96 miles) at Frosterley Village Hall with help from teachers and pupils of Wheldon School, Nottingham. I am very grateful to those stalwarts who have offered to help. Please could those other stalwarts who have entered the event tell me their **WALK NUMBER** when allocated so that we can offer support when not otherwise engaged. Tom S.

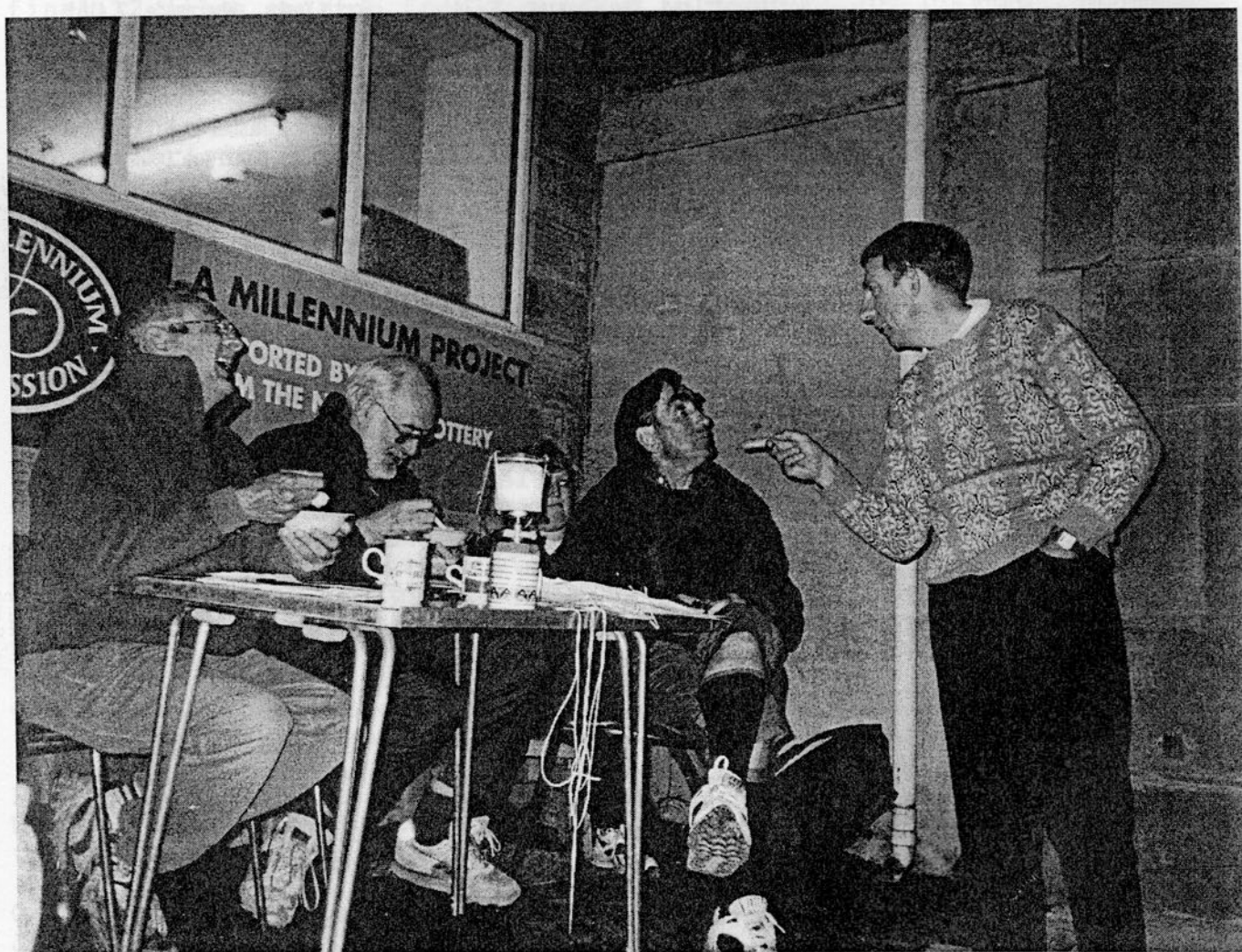
L'ECHALIER

During another conversation at "The Provender" it was alleged to me that there were NO stiles in France and that, furthermore, there was no word for "stile" in the French language. I was surprised but unable to contradict my informant who was only passing on the allegation. Later I had recourse to Harrap's Pocket French & English Dictionary which I have had since my schooldays. There it was:- "stile, s. Echelier m."

Further research into "Petit Larousse Illustré", dating from my late father's schooldays, revealed the following:-
 "Echelier. Sorte d'échelle permettant de franchir une haie." i.e. a type of ladder allowing (one) to cross a hedge. Interestingly the illustration alongside "échelle" shows a two-sided ladder as well as an ordinary "lean-to" type. Further enquiries have revealed that there are FEW stiles in France (partly because there are very few cross-field paths) but, as you have seen, the French have a word for it. I wonder - did the Greeks? Tom S.

CAUTIONARY CAPTIONS

1. "Bryan concentrated on his custard. At least that wouldn't bite."
2. "Phil just knew the purple nail varnish was a mistake."
3. "Brian was mesmerised, waiting for the ancient mariner to reveal his albatross."
4. "I warned you not to stir the custard with your finger."



Many thanks for the captions (which were inadvertently and inexplicably overlooked in a previous issue) to Phil Betts, who is gesticulating in the photograph at Brian Buttifant to the amusement of Trevor Blake while Bryan Clarke concentrates on the custard. Thanks also to Shirlie Gill (by the way does she know whose face is partly obscured by the lamp?) for the photograph.

Keith Warner

WHAT IS A KANTER?

by Keith Warman

This article is aimed at new members of the Group and those to whom the term "kanter" is a mystery.

In contrast to challenge walks (where entrants follow a pre-determined route using a route description), a kanter is more of an orienteering-type event in which checkpoints given by grid references only are to be visited in ANY order. At the start of the kanter, walkers plot their own routes on maps linking the checkpoints as they wish, although, in reality, rights-of-way and minor roads form a fairly obvious linking route.

Upon arrival at each checkpoint (which is usually unmanned), either a one or two word answer to a simple question is noted or you will be required to clip your checkcard with an orienteering punch located at the grid reference; this shows that you have visited that checkpoint. The level of support offered on a kanter is subject to the availability of manpower, but most kanters are low-key affairs, perhaps with only the start/finish venue being manned.

One purpose of a kanter is to improve map reading and navigational abilities, which can't be a bad thing, especially for those of us used only to following written route descriptions. On some kanters it is not always feasible to visit all the checkpoints and return to base within the allotted time. In this case a route must be planned which visits as many of the given checkpoints as possible, or desired.

I hope this doesn't sound too much like hard work - it really isn't. In fact, it is a very relaxed type of event and a lot of fun. There are no prizes for being the fastest one around the checkpoints - all a bit meaningless as there isn't usually a prescribed route - you could all head off in different directions! You may even decide to plan a route visiting only half of the checkpoints. It is entirely up to you - you set your own pace and route.

At the Kent Group Annual General Meeting in January 1998, it was agreed to devise a kanter for the Group's social walk programme in order to try something different and perhaps to encourage members who do not usually partake in the Group's offerings to venture out. May I therefore introduce for your delectation and indulgence.....

A KENTISH KANTER

This has been devised by Paul and Mary Hatcher (with some assistance from Shirly and me) and will take place on Sunday 6th June 1999. It will appear in the Kent Group programme in our Newsletter but not in Strider, as it is a pilot project to test support amongst our own members. The details are as follows:-

1. Date - Sunday 6th June 1999.
2. Venue - the free public car park in Wye, near Ashford, GR 053468.
3. Time - meet Paul and Mary between 8:00am and 9:00am to collect your list of checkpoint locations and to plot the route onto your maps. This is easier than you think. It is suggested that you allow 20-30 minutes for this. Start time is between 8:30am and 9:30am.

4. Finish - Paul and Mary will be in the car park between 3:00pm and 6:00pm to welcome you back and pat your back.

5. Distance - there will be a choice of two routes: either 20 or 26 miles (or less if you decide not to visit all the checkpoints). If you feel that time is running short, you will be expected to "short-cut" to arrive back at the finish before 6:00pm - Paul and Mary have a home to go to!

6. Maximum number of checkpoints to visit - 9 on the shorter route and 13 on the longer. A one or two word answer is required to a simple question based on visual clues at each checkpoint.

7. Equipment required - as well as your normal gear for a day's walk in June, the following should also be carried:- PEN OR PENCIL; COMPASS; MAP(S) (See item 8); FOOD AND DRINK. There are 3 pubs on or just off route - 4 on the 26 mile option - although opening times and availability of refreshments are unknown! The tea shop in Church Street in Wye and some pubs there may well be open upon your return.

8. Maps - although both routes are on the 1:50,000 Landranger 189 (Ashford and Romney Marsh), it is recommended that you use the new Explorer 1:25,000 maps. (If you have the now obsolete Pathfinder 1:25,000 maps, these may suffice). Relevant maps are:

Route	Explorer	OR Pathfinder
20 miles	137 Ashford	1211 Canterbury 1231 Ashford
26 miles	137 Ashford 138 Dover, Folkes. and Hythe	As above

9. Support en-route - subject to timings, Paul and Mary hope to be able to visit 1 or 2 checkpoints to offer simple refreshments, ie. cold drinks, biscuits and cake, from their car. This cannot be guaranteed but should be treated as a pleasant surprise rather than an expectation.

10. Cost - free! It is envisaged that a commemorative certificate will be given to all participants showing the number of checkpoints visited.

11. Any queries? Please telephone Paul and Mary Hatcher [REDACTED]. IF YOU INTEND TO TAKE PART, PLEASE LET PAUL AND MARY KNOW DURING THE WEEK BEFORE THE KANTER TO ASSIST IN CATERING ARRANGEMENTS.

In order to attract newer members or those who may lack confidence in map-reading, informal grouping (if requested) might be able to be arranged - if you are willing to act as an "informal guide" in this respect, please let Paul and Mary know.

If it proves successful, it may well be held again in the future and possibly become an open Group-run event appearing in Strider's programme.

So, Come on Kent Kolleagues - have a go at a Kanter!

Put the date in your diary NOW! Sunday 6th June 1999.

A bitterly cold winter's morn saw Paul Hatcher and me travel to Witley. The driving rain en route suggested a difficult day ahead on Surrey's long, exposed heathland tracks. Familiar faces were seen shuffling into position for the 8 am start, but we decided to wait 5 minutes to avoid the crowd. We were staggered to find ourselves out in the most wonderful day, still bone-chillingly cold, but the rain had abated to give crisp, clear vistas and crisp, not so clear mud. The morning chorus approved too!

The route took us southwards to climb Blackdown Hill. It was a magical place to be; shafts of sunlight fell through bare trees - allowing far-reaching views not experienced before. After checkpoint 1 at Fernhurst, we meandered north around Haslemere on undulating tracks and paths to ascend Gibbet Hill. Despite the mud, it seemed that the course was quite fast.

Checkpoint 2 was at Hindhead and then we dropped into and rose out of the Devil's Punchbowl to follow Kettlebury Ridge to the final checkpoint at Tilford. The afternoon sunshine gave us a false sense of security as, when safely ensconced inside Tilford Hall and tucking into refreshments, the sky turned instantly black and within seconds a blizzard of huge snowflakes drove in. In two minutes, it had passed and soon the sun was peeping out again!

We returned to Witley just before dark and reflected on a truly enjoyable day. Rumours are that Surrey Group are planning a new route for 2000, so watch Strider for details.

Keith Warman

QUOTABLE QUOTATIONS

Night-walkers, CHAP. LXV. V.35

"Every Justice of Peace (Ex Officio, and by the Commission, the first Assignavimus) may cause to be arrested all Night-walkers, be they strangers or other persons that be suspected, or that be of evil behavior, or of evil fame; and more particularly all such suspected persons as shall sleep in the day time and go abroad in the nights: And all such as shall in the night-season haunt any House that is suspected for Bawdery; or shall in the night-time use other suspicious company; or shall commit any other outrages or misdemeanours; and may force them to find surety for their Good Behavior. See the title, Surety for the Good Behavior."

"For as one saith, Such Night-walkers (or Night-birds) are ominous, like the Whistler, etc. And such Night-walkings are unfit for honest men, and more suiting to the Thief (the right Whistler) and to Beasts of the Prey, which come forth of their Dens when Man goes to his rest." Norfolk & Suffolk Newsletter.

"I got to the top of one hill and I was wheeezing, wailing, bleating and braying. I sounded like a drunken donkey giving birth to a set of bagpipes." AND

"I didn't know that you could sit on a wall in the rain and fall asleep." - Tony Twyman to Roger Thornburgh after Wealden Waters.

NATIONAL A.G.M. WEEKEND, SCARBOROUGH, 12-14 MARCH 1999

Kent Group members who attended were: Mary and Paul Hatcher, Laurie Jones and his wife, Sally, Alan Knight, Les Maple, Ann Sayer (with whom I travelled on the bus from York to Scarborough), Avril Stapleton and myself. On arrival (by taxi!!) at the hotel we were greeted by Ted Marsh of Yorkshire Coast Group and soon after by Terry Bound (Cornwall & Devon) with whom I was to share a room in the very comfortable hotel. The intervening hours until dinner were occupied with unpacking, cups of tea, chats with friends old & new, reading papers for Sunday's A.G.M., drinks and more chat. An excellent buffet meal was soon followed by an early bed as the coach for the 16 & 18 mile walks, both on the North York Moors, was due to leave at 8 a.m.

I opted for a leisurely breakfast in company with some Surrey Group friends who, like Laurie, Sally and myself, were doing the shorter (11 mile) walk along the coast. On the coach to Filey we were given a handout which told us to keep the sea on our right all the way to Scarborough. That was neither as dull as it might sound to those uninitiated to coastal walking nor strictly true. After walking down to and along the beach and climbing up to the cliff top our local leader took us out to the interesting headland of Filey Brigg before rejoining the Cleveland Way at its junction with the Wolds Way which is marked by a sculpted and engraved stone. We then headed north on the Cleveland Way which runs between farmland, some grassland but mostly ploughed, and the cliff edge - perilously close to the latter in places. An inland diversion of about a mile brought us to the "Bull Inn" at Gristhorpe where we were allowed to eat the hotel's packed lunches in a side room while supping the pub's liquid refreshments. An enlightened approach by the landlord who had recently taken over and who announced to us during lunch that all footpaths to Scarborough were blocked by floods so we would have to stay in the pub drinking his beer (or whatever else we fancied) all afternoon!

Not long afterwards we were retracing our steps to the coast in glorious sunshine and then heading north on an undulating path cooled by gentle sea breezes - it might have been a summer's day. I was only just out of the bath when Terry returned from the 18 miler and we were soon enjoying a companionable chat over a cup of tea and dutifully reading the reports for the morrow's meeting. An excellent meal, which Mary, Paul and I washed down with a carafe of wine (between 3, NOT 1 each), was followed by a good, but inevitably political, speech by Paddy Tipping, MP for Sherwood, whose theme was the Government's Access to the Countryside (aka "Right to Roam") Bill and the traditional Barn Dance led by Ken Falconer - much more fun!

At the A.G.M. the next morning Ken Falconer was elected to the Committee along with Ken Andrews, Treasurer, and the Editor of the Kent Group News letter (!). The three retiring members, Tony Willey, Treasurer, Bernie Pearson and Geoff Saunders, were heartily thanked by Roger Michell, Chairman, who was re-elected as were the remaining office-bearers and committee members - see "Strider". Roger gave a brief oral report, largely consisting of thanks, but the rest had submitted written reports and these along with the minutes of the 1998 A.G.M. and the agenda for this year's meeting will be available at monthly gatherings from April 12. Amongst other things Peter Robbins mentioned that an "E" route from Dover/Harwich to Stranraer is to be officially opened at Kirk Yetholm on 15 September. Details will appear in "Strider".

After some discussion the meeting passed the necessary resolutions to ensure that the LDWA became a Company Limited by Guarantee (LDWA Ltd.) with effect from 14 March 1999. That having happened copies of the new Kent Group Constitution and the associated Kent Group Bylaws are enclosed as well as a copy of the minutes of the Kent Group A.G.M. of 31.1.99 - see minute 8 - and are now in force. If anyone notices any appreciable difference in how the Group is operating following this new constitution I shall be surprised because no fundamental change was in mind either at National or local level.

Before we changed ourselves into LDWA Ltd. the old, unincorporated LDWA was formally closed and Sir John Johnson, who is continuing as President, gave an excellent speech in which he spoke welcomingly of the Government Bill as a step in the right direction but stressed that there was much work still to be done partly through the Local Access Forums when they were set up; an approach in the right spirit was vital.

A very enjoyable weekend and the hotel staff thoroughly deserved the round of applause which accompanied the gratuities which Roger presented on our behalf. Next year's A.G.M. is on 12 March 2000 in Weymouth. Contributions for the August "Strider" should reach me by 15 May and for the August Newsletter by 5 July. Tom Sinclair, [REDACTED]

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THURS 15 APRIL

MILLENNIUM HUNDRED COMMITTEE

Members of the Committee will have received their agendas from Keith Warman but if any member has any ideas they would like to be put forward, e.g. a design for the certificate or a potential sponsor, please tell Paul Hatcher about your suggestions.

SAT 15 MAY

ST. MARY'S NORTH DOWNS CHALLENGE

A repeat of the walk organised by former member Mike Cursons, with help from many of our "Kemsing and district" members, last year on 30th May when several of us enjoyed the various distances on offer - 20, 14.5, and 10 miles. There is also a 5.5. mile route for families with small children. For an entry form send an s.a.e. to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The forms may also be available at monthly gatherings.

SAT 12 JUNE

NCH Action for Children Sponsored Walk Day

Walks include 13 mile circular round Bewl Water, 20 mile linear from Broadstairs to Herne Bay, 12 mile linear from Newington to Gillingham, 13 mile linear from St. Margaret's Bay to Sandwich, 26 mile linear on Wealdway Gravesend to Tonbridge. For details contact Roger Francis on [REDACTED]. N.B. This is the day before our "ON THE TILES" and is NOT an LDWA event. The info. was passed on to me and is only printed in case anyone is interested.

SAT/SUN SEP 4/5

WEALDEN WATERS MARSHALS' WALK

(see article on page 8 if you haven't already read it)

SAT/SUN OCT 9/10

WEALDEN WATERS WALK

SUN NOV 21

ANNUAL LUNCH (preceded by optional walk)

"The Shant", East Sutter near Maidstone (GR835484). Highly recommended by Hilary and Roger Thornburgh who hope you will come for the "excellent food" and "good choices on the 3-course menu". Further details and map will be sent out with the August Newsletter.

SUN JAN 30, AD 2000

KENT GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MILLENNIUM HUNDRED - 27 - 29 MAY 2000

IN 2000 OUR Group definitely needs US

We cannot be expected to organise and successfully carry off a 100 mile walk (with hopefully 500 entrants) without a great deal of help leading up to the event and on the weekend itself. Whilst there will be "professional" checkpointers helping out on most of the main checkpoints it is intended to allocate a "local" Kent Group member to each checkpoint to provide liaison with H.Q. Help is especially needed at H.Q. in and around the kitchen and dining (or should that be slurping?) areas for the meal at the finish.

ALL can help - and most of those who have spent some time on a checkpoint (as opposed to passing through) will confirm that, although this is no easy option (it can feel harder than walking sometimes), checkpointing can be a very rewarding social experience, meeting lots of people, encouraging those who appear to be flagging a little and generally having an enjoyable time with your fellow checkpointers. And....you'll be thanked as well!

Everybody can help in some way and some may even have special skills which have been kept hidden but which could solve problems or ease the organisation: e.g. you have a 15-seat "People Mover"; you have access to a large chest freezer suitable for storing tonnes of food; you are a brilliant cook; you are willing to pre-walk most of the route at night and to provide valuable feedback; your employer or somebody else you know might be a potential source of sponsorship; etc., etc.,

Whatever your talents why not volunteer your services and the Committee will try to accommodate any particular requests. Better still why not invite family and/or friends to join in the excitement? If you want to discuss how you can help or you're not sure about matters, please telephone Paul [REDACTED]

Please indicate whether you should be able to help by completing and returning the slip below (even if you have already spoken to someone he/she could have forgotten) and please mention any special skills, interests or useful equipment.

Why not give checkpointing a try? - you won't regret it. Kevin looks forward to hearing from you.

Neil Higham and a few other members of the Millennium Committee.

To: [REDACTED]

Name(s).....Tel. No.....(Daytime)

LDWA No:.....Tel. No.....(Evening)

I/we can offer the following:-

* Help on the weekend itself (29-31 May 2000) Yes/No

* Help on the Marshals' Walk (29 April-1 May) Yes/No

* I would like to do the Marshals' Walk (if I qualify) Yes/No

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