

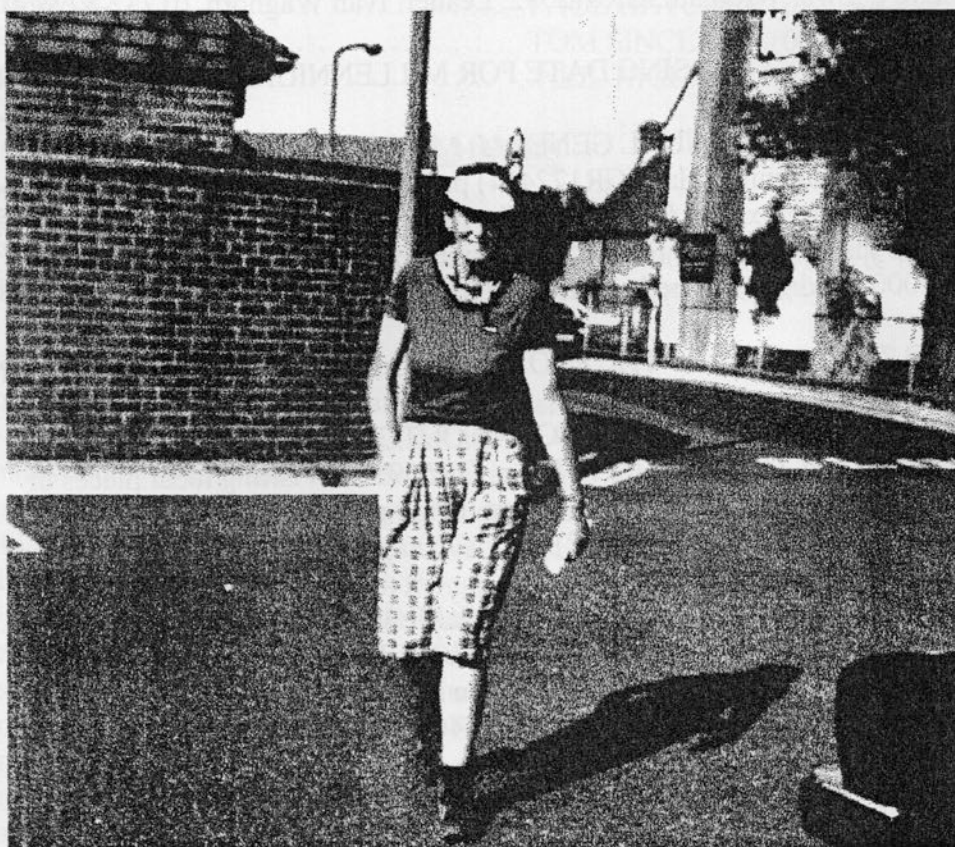


LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

Kent Group

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

NEWSLETTER



What a Scorcher! Liz Keeler finishing the Marshals' Heart of the Weald Walk on a very hot July day.

Number 50

December 1999

LDWA KENT GROUP PROGRAMME DECEMBER 1999 - MAY 2000

MON DEC 6 THE PROVENDER, ULCOMBE, GR853486, 8 p.m.

WED DEC 29 A SOCIAL SEVENOAKS TWENTY
c. 20 ml. Meet 8 a.m. Ide Hill c.p. - on B.2042 by public toilets (GR 488517). Pub
stop planned and to be booked by. Leader: Brian Buttifant [REDACTED]

FRI DEC 31 CLOSING DATE FOR MARSHALS' HUNDRED ENTRIES

MON JAN 3 2000 ROSE & CROWN, WROTHAM (GR612592) 8 P.M.

FRI JAN 7 WAGHORN'S WINTER WANDER
c. 21 miles. Night Walk on North Downs Way. Meet 9.30 p.m. for 10.30 p.m.start at
the Rose & Crown, Wrotham, GR612592. Leader: Ivan Waghorn, [REDACTED]

SAT JAN 22 CLOSING DATE FOR MILLENNIUM HUNDRED ENTRIES

SUN JAN 30 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2 p.m. Elham Millennium Hall (GR177444) preceded by buffet lunch (optional but
FREE) at 12.30 approx. and by social walks (optional and free) starting at 9.30 a.m.
N.B.If more than 530 entries for the Millennium Hundred have been received by 22nd
January 2000 the draw will be held at the AGM.

MON FEB 7 THE PROVENDER, ULCOMBE, GR853486, 8 P.M.

SUN FEB 27 SEVENOAKS OUTCROPS WALK
10ml. Meet 10 a.m. One Tree Hill N.T. c.p. GR559531. Visiting local places of
interest, old clothes preferable. No pub stop. Bring packed lunch.
Leader: Martyn Berry [REDACTED]

SUN MAR 5 SEVENOAKS CIRCULAR MARSHALS' WALKS
Meet 8 a.m. Buckhurst II c.p.(GR533546) for both 20 and 30 mile routes.
ONLY for those who have agreed to help on the main event.
Offers of help to Brian Buttifant [REDACTED] or Jim Oddy [REDACTED]

MON MAR 6 ROSE & CROWN, WROTHAM (GR612592) 8 P.M.

SUN MAR 19 SEVENOAKS CIRCULAR
Please support one of the Kent Group's three annual events. Offers of help to:
Brian Buttifant [REDACTED] or Jim Oddy [REDACTED]

MON APR 3 THE PROVENDER, ULCOMBE, GR853486, 8 P.M.

SUN APR 16 THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT
c. 21ml. Meet Battle Railway Station, GR 755156, 8.30 a.m. Pub stop.
Leaders: Neal and Jan O'Rourke [REDACTED]

SAT APR 29 - MON MAY 1 MILLENNIUM HUNDRED MARSHALS' WALK
Entry Forms from and offers of help to Neal O'Rourke () N.B. Closing
date for entries is 31st December 1999. Staggered start from Wye Village Hall.

MON MAY 8 Keep this date free for an evening stroll before monthly gathering.
SUN MAY 21. Keep this date free for a gentle social walk (c.15m.) with pub stop.
Details of both these walks will appear in the next (April 2000) Newsletter.

SAT 27 - MON MAY 29 **THE MILLENNIUM HUNDRED**
Offers of help to Paul Hatcher (). See article on a later page.

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) ()

Dear Fellow Kent Group Members,

It seems no time since I started typing the August issue but if this one is going to be ready by the due date it is high time I got started - less than 3 weeks to go. The intervening months have been eventful in many ways. There have been the usual events -Heart of the Weald Walk and Wealden Waters Walk, thanks to Ernie Bishop and Hilary & Roger Thornburgh respectively, and the results of both are enclosed. Probably the major occurrence, even though it was also the saddest, was the death of Peter Barnett, former Chairman of the Group. There was a good turn out at the funeral on Monday 4th October and, at Pauline's suggestion, a few of us raised our glasses to Peter's memory at the meeting in The Provender that evening. He was also remembered in a very moving speech by Ernie Bishop before the start of the Wealden Waters. You will find on other pages the poem which Chris Barnett read at the funeral service, a tribute by Andrew Boulden and a note from Pauline which mentions the Leukaemia Research Fund. Anyone who would like to make a donation in Peter's memory may send a cheque, payable to the Leukaemia Research Fund, to me.

Thanks to Maurice Faircloth, Pat Clay, Paul and Mary Hatcher and Jim Oddy for arranging social walks. I am only sorry that a bout of angina prevented me from taking part in any of them. My thanks to all who visited, sent cards, 'phoned up to enquire and good wishes to any member who is suffering in any way. As usual I am grateful for all the contributions without which this newsletter would not survive.

Contributions for the April 2000 issue by **6th March 2000** to:
Tom Sinclair, ()

GR4-FROM THE GORGES OF THE ARDECHE TO THE MARGERIDE Laurie Lowe

In the December 1998 issue of the newsletter, I described a two week trip which we made in 1998 along the GR4 from Volvic to St Flour. This year we decided to explore the countryside further to the south, still using the GR4. I decided that we would walk from south to north for two good reasons. First, I wanted to get the backs of my legs brown for a change and secondly, that is the way the route description in the Topoguide is written! As it turned out I still managed to make a serious navigational error and it was the backs of my elbows which got burnt.

The super-efficient Yvonne at Baldwins sorted out our travel arrangements and after a very early start from Ashford International, we travelled by Eurostar to Paris Nord, where we engaged the services of a suicidal taxi driver to take us to the Gare de Lyon ("You can open your eyes now Jean!") and then the TGV to Orange. Here we were met by two friends from Bavaria who were to be our companions on the route. They had arrived several hours before us and greeted us with a bottle of red wine which we speedily dispatched while on the platform. We then had time for a quick visit to the Roman amphitheatre before taking a local train to Bollène, near to where we intended to start the walk. We then experienced the worst 6 kms of the entire trip. This was along a narrow but very busy road from Bollène to Pont-St-Esprit. Huge lorries swept past at regular intervals within inches of us, threatening to suck us under their wheels. It was a relief to reach the calm and safety of the medieval town where we were to spend our first night.

The weather throughout the 11 days of walking was perfect - bright sunshine, clear blue skies and a gentle north-westerly breeze on our faces to keep us cool. We had about 15 minutes of soft rain on our last day, but more of that later!

The route ran approximately north-west through villages and small towns - the only place of any size was Langogne, just over halfway in our 11 day schedule. We walked mainly on ancient tracks, some of which bore the characteristic grooves worn in the rock by years of use by carts and carriages. In some places the route made use of narrower tracks and many of these showed signs of more modern vehicles. The use in recent times by motorcyclists was in evidence with narrow slots worn deep into the more vulnerable surfaces of the footpaths. The motorcyclists presumably used the wider tracks also but their surfaces, compacted by years of use by carts and cattle, appeared to be resistant to this modern assault.

Our first morning was a delight, passing through vineyards and orchards. We took the opportunity to sample cherries (black and white) apricots, peaches and mulberries. Also seen, but not yet ripe, were apples, pears, almonds, grapes, figs and kiwi fruit! Later, we climbed onto a limestone plateau overlooking the Ardèche gorge with superb (but vertigo-inducing) views.

For several days we continued across limestone country surrounded by multitudes of wildflowers and their dependent butterfly population. Anyone with a keen interest in these subjects should

try to visit this area in June. It would be easy to spend an entire day examining the flora and fauna adjacent to just one kilometre of track.

In the following days we progressed from limestone to a schist-based terrain and later onto granite. This meant that the scenery and vegetation were continually changing. The yellow broom and purple heather of the granite areas were especially attractive. The terrain was generally dry with only rare opportunities for picking up extra water en route. For this reason we adopted the practice of never knowingly passing an open bar without sampling their stocks. Towards the end of one rather long, hot day, we passed close to a campsite and while looking for a water tap, I discovered a private bar. It turned out that the site was owned by an English company which ran activity holidays for children. The bar was for staff only but we managed to talk them into allowing us to sample some beverages - it was a delight to drink French beer from a traditional English pint tankard!

We used a mixture of accommodation - 1 very posh hotel (an ex-nunnery), 3 scruffy but perfectly adequate hotels and 7 gîtes d'étape. Meals were always enjoyable and sometimes an adventure! The one exception was a dish called "calamari?" which seemed to consist of the week's leftovers stuffed into an old inner tube. Even the indefatigable Lotte was nearly defeated by this. I think that this was the meal when we managed two 1 litre carafes of red wine between us.

Perhaps the most memorable accommodation was the gîte at Thines. This tiny hamlet, of about 10 houses clustered around a church, was perched high up on a spur overlooking a steep-sided tree-clad valley. We had paused briefly at a source of alcoholic refreshment only a few kilometres from our destination and were subsequently accompanied by the owner's black dog which led us to our destination without hesitation. Unfortunately he seemed unable to find his way back in the dark and so spent the night wandering from house to house howling at the doors. After a shower at the gîte, we passed through the churchyard to an auberge where we were served a most enjoyable meal. I found it remarkable that in this tiny community, served by only one narrow road, there was a shop selling paintings and photographs. Our resident expert on the subject declared that the view from the toilet window (perched on the edge of the cliff) was probably the best in France, and she has a photograph to back this claim. It was at Thines that we met two of only three other walkers encountered on the entire route.

I should have realised that the perfection could not last. Towards the end of the penultimate afternoon I made an error in map reading which resulted in us overshooting the gîte at Prat Long by 6 kms! We made enquiries at a bar which happened to be in our vicinity and after he had controlled his mirth at our predicament, the owner offered to run us back in his car to where I had intended to be. Things then got worse! The gîte was in process of being altered. The sleeping quarters were upstairs, the showers and toilets were downstairs and in between was a function room in which a very noisy party was in progress. The

locals seemed much entertained by the procession of scantily clad foreigners who passed through the centre of their party on the way to and from the ablutions. Later we had a reasonable meal on the periphery of the party which continued well into the night and beyond our bedtime! Eventually it went quiet and I dozed for a couple of hours before waking and realising that a trip to the toilet was called for. In the dark I carefully picked my way across the now deserted dance floor and found a dog asleep across the entrance to the loo. It was with considerable trepidation that I gingerly stepped across it trying not to think of the damage it could do if it was to awake suddenly and look up. We had arranged to have breakfast at 8.30, but no one had appeared by 8.45, so we assumed that the lady was sleeping off the effects of the celebrations, left money for the evening meal, and departed on our way. It then rained for 15 minutes - the only time during the 11 days. By the time we reached Ruynes-en-Margeride the sun was shining and we enjoyed a hearty if somewhat late breakfast in the village bar.

We then covered the last few gentle kilometres into St Flour, stopping only at another bar on the way where the lady owner told us somewhat confusingly that she had visited "Brighton in Britain" 20 years ago! In St Flour we eventually found a room where we could have a shower and change into cleanish clothes before enjoying another excellent meal and then taking the overnight train to Paris. Here we parted company with L and M who had another 8 hours of rail travel to reach Munich.

It had not been all pleasure. We had undergone an intensive language course during which I had learnt the German for "cemetery" and "fresh frog", while M had perfected the useful English sentence "I must not cut the honeysuckle with my lawn mower". So much for the European Union!

The loo with the best view in France! (As recommended by S.H.)



I saw him this morning through the mist and the haze.
With a cane in his old shaking hand
He was smiling at someone that I couldn't see.
He was walking with someone and laughing with glee
He was talking with someone in gay repartee
And I thought, "What a crazy old man".

But when he drew close I presumed from his words
That the loved one that I couldn't see,
Was a true lover lost, in the prime of their years
Who remained true and faithful in sorrow and tears
And still walked beside him consoling his fears.
And I thought, "Such a thing cannot be"

Surely, I thought, "His senses are gone, deep sorrow has clouded his brain",
Now he totters along and he laughs all the while,
But in place of the tears, an exuberant smile
As on life's long journey he treads the last mile
And I thought, "Without doubt he's insane".

Then the mist of the morning withdrew for a time
And the Sun through the haze and the fog
Lit up the morning and brightened the day
And heightened my vision and to my dismay
There walking beside him in splendid array
WAS HIS DOG.

As those of you who were there probably remember that was the poem which Chris Barnett read at his father's funeral. It is called "Walking" and was written this year by a person named Keven. Chris had found the poem and Pauline had readily agreed that it was a very appropriate piece to be read on that occasion. I am pleased to print it here for the benefit of Peter's many friends in the Kent Group but I would say that I have not sought permission as I do not know who holds the copyright. Many thanks, Chris, for sending me the poem which reached me courtesy of the fax machine in the offices across the street. That reminds me - I have recently acquired an E mail address which is available to any newsletter contributor who wishes to send material by that means. The acquisition of this piece of modern equipment does NOT mean that contributions by hand delivery or, as it is rudely known, "snail mail" will be any less acceptable than hitherto - or even before.

Tom S.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"I wonder if you might have space in the next Kent Newsletter for a mention of my new book, "From Side to Side", review copy enclosed. The book can be obtained from the publisher, Praxis, or from me direct for anyone who'd like a signed copy."

Joyce (Tombs)

Joyce Tombs, [REDACTED]
14th October 1999.

I plan to reproduce the "blurb" Joyce has sent me either on a later page or as an insert. The price is £6 plus 75p for packing and postage. The book came in the post on the morning we were about to set out for Norfolk to spend a few days with friends very near Cromer where Joyce's walk starts. Some of the early parts of the walk will sound familiar to "Poppy Line" enthusiasts and her route, which finishes at St. David's Head in Pembrokeshire, uses sections of many Long Distance Paths from the Peddars Way to the Pembrokeshire Coast Path via the Icknield Way and the Ridgeway to mention but four. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and commend it to you. As for a proper review I shall have to find out what plans the Editor of Strider has for the April 2000 issue. Any of you who are thinking of asking for the loan of my review copy should be warned that the hire charge is £6.75 - £6 to be sent to Joyce and 75p to be forwarded to the Leukaemia Research Fund which brings me to.....

"Would it be possible to insert the attached acknowledgement into the next Newsletter? I have received so many letters and cards that it is beyond me to reply to them all personally"

Pauline (Barnett)

5 November 1999

Of course, Pauline, and thanks again for the kind enquiries and messages. T.

To All Our Friends in the Kent Group

"Our heartfelt thanks for the very many cards, letters and messages also donations to the Leukaemia Research Fund. Your love and kindness have helped us greatly in trying to come to terms with the loss of Peter. We are so grateful to you all.

Pauline, Chris and Elida Barnett."

There was another letter, or rather a handwritten report, laboriously written by Neal O'Rourke at my request, but it has somehow disappeared in the course of a recent sorting out of old newsletter contributions and other papers. I have left apologetic messages on Neal's answering machine and will try to make amends by recording the main points of his report on a later page.

Editor.

Bylaws, Grievance Procedure Guidelines and **REQUIREMENTS FOR EVENTS**

I was unable to attend the meeting of the National Committee on 11th September when these items were approved but I have since received copies as Group Secretary and the Newsletter Editor has instructed me to prepare a report.

The papers came with a letter from Avril Stapleton, Local Groups Secretary, in which she mentions that a Constitution Sub-Committee (Ken Falconer, Geoff Saunders and herself) has been formed and encourages local groups to channel any desires for constitutional change through that sub-committee. There was also a covering letter from Roger Michell, Chairman, who writes:-

"I enclose a copy of the Bylaws adopted under the new LDWA Constitution and notes giving guidelines for grievance procedures in matters relating to the LDWA."

"DON'T PANIC! the LDWA is NOT about to become a forum for acrimonious disputes between members or an organisation where disciplinary tribunals are the norm! We are confident that most questions that arise will continue to be solved by amicable discussion, just as in the past. It is our hope and belief that these procedures will be invoked very rarely indeed."

As with the National Constitution it is open to any individual member to ask the General Secretary for a copy of the Bylaws and/or the grievance procedures and similarly to ask the Group Secretary for a copy of our Constitution and Bylaws.

Avril's letter says, quite rightly I suspect, that many of us are content to let the Constitution have a rest but she also mentions.....

REQUIREMENTS FOR EVENTS

A new, revised edition of Guidelines for Events is due to be published early in the new year and will incorporate these requirements. Any event will need to satisfy the requirements if it is to be supported by and publicised by the LDWA and they will be reproduced on the back of the Event Notification Form. However it is not only event organisers who need to be aware of these requirements and that is why they are printed on another page. We should read them all because we are all likely, particularly with the Millennium Hundred coming up, to be checkpointing, marshalling a road-crossing, undertaking some of the many tasks involved in running an event, planning a social walk, serving on a working party etc., etc.

NEW INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS

These were approved by the National Committee at its June meeting and a summary, prepared by Ken Andrews, Treasurer, is reproduced on the back of "Requirements for Events". The summary gives a clear picture and is worth reading.

After the "edicts from above" there will be something completely different.

Appendix A to Guidelines for Events

Requirements for Events

For an Event to be supported and publicised by the LDWA, the following requirements must be fulfilled:

- the route is mainly cross-country
- the event is not advertised as a race and the emphasis is on walking rather than jogging or running
- there may be several routes, but at least one is 20 miles or more in length
- there are at most 500 starters
- the event is organised with due regard to safety
- the event is organised with due regard to the environment
- the event is organised with due consideration for the local community and landowners
- the event complies with current legislation, in particular the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations where applicable
- there is adequate public liability insurance cover
- all entrants sign a declaration that they will observe the rules of the event and the Country Code
- written consent of a parent or guardian is obtained for entrants under 18 years of age
- the entry fee is reasonable given the support and facilities provided
- the event finances are conducted in a proper manner
- the event is organised in a manner consistent with the Aims and Objects of the LDWA

LDWA National Committee
11 September 1999

The Long Distance Walkers Association

New Insurance Arrangements

The liability insurance policies are now one policy giving wider and more comprehensive cover. The new policy is similar to that used by the Ramblers' Association and many other bodies engaged in recreational and sporting activities, it is recommended by the CCPR. The cover extends to any activity of the Association organised or recognised, recreational, business, social etc. The main headings are:

- **Damage or Injury** - anything that happens caused by an association action whether accidental or not including leased, rented or borrowed premises.
- **Loss** - caused by negligence, errors or omissions or bad advice.
- **Liability** - assumed under contract.
- **Trespass or Nuisance**
- **Professional Indemnity** - walk leaders or anyone taking responsibility who are unlucky or who make a mistake.
- **Products Liability** - problems caused by E-Coli sandwiches or bug-ridden drinks at checkpoints. Also faulty merchandise.
- **Officers Liability** - anything going wrong because of the performance of their duties by any officer of the association (including local group officers or anyone co-opted to help organise something).
- **Libel and Slander** - both Strider articles and results of an action like a disqualification.

The cover extends to Strider advertisements (for instance if a dodgy walk was publicised and someone suffered while taking part) also voluntary helpers at checkpoints or anywhere else.

The usual principle applies: we do not admit liability when confronted with a claim, that is for the insurers to decide. Nor should anyone try to reassure an allegedly injured party by saying "don't worry, the insurance will cover it".

If a problem or possible claim comes to your attention please let the Treasurer have full details immediately. If he cannot be contacted that day try the Local Group Secretary, if still no reply the Chairman or Secretary. Timely notification to the insurers is important.

WEALDEN WATERS WALK (WWW)

For the first time, I believe, there was an organising committee for the event and judging from all reports reaching me and my own observations, that worked well. One innovation was a questionnaire which participants were asked to complete before returning home. 43 forms were handed in and Hilary has sent me this summary:-

Information and Welcome

Excellent 15, Very Good 11, Good 8, OK 3 (2 would like info. sent earlier)

Route

Excellent 8, Very Good 11, Good 10, liked the new route 6, Wish it were daylight 3, Muddy 5, Challenging 8, more bearings and grid references on Ashdown Forest 1.

Food and Drink/Checkpoint Support

Excellent 13, Very Good 16, Good 7, Variable 1, Delicious toasted sandwiches 4, More lime squash, sandwiches earlier, cakes later, food at 'The Barn' please, 1 each.

Would you do it again?

Yes 40, Probably 1, No, because of the M.25 and Tunbridge Wells traffic, 1.

Other comments:

Pity the Southern Triple Challenge couldn't operate every year, 1;
Persevere with the 45 miler, 1.

In addition to those responses there was a long letter from George and Annie Foot, Cornwall and Devon Group, addressed to "Hilary and Roger and the rest of the Kent Group" containing comments, mostly favourable, on many aspects of the walk. I will just quote the first two sentences and the penultimate sentence:-

"The Wealden Waters continues to improve and yet again we have enjoyed a lovely weekend. The biggest change this year was the route back from Tonbridge which we thought a big improvement. Thank you all very much for all the hard work you put into the event."

George & Annie.

To all helpers:-

"Thank you. The response to the appeal for marshals for the WWW was tremendous and made the organization of checkpoints and other duties so much easier. So, thank you to all Kent members for volunteering and for encouraging partners, relatives and friends to join in. Your helpfulness and friendliness were commented upon by many walkers and greatly appreciated. At times you may have felt that there were too many helpers (though perhaps some felt there were too few!) but it did mean that any emergency could be more effectively dealt with without straining checkpoint resources. We hope you enjoyed the event."

Hilary & Roger Thornburgh, Brian Buttifant, Jim Oddy, Keith Warman. Organising Committee

Farewell to a Friend.

(Tribute to Peter Barnett)

I recall first seeing Peter on a walk in Cambridge in 1990. This somewhat elderly gentleman with white hair & a green top was off like a shot at the start. I didn't know his name but thought I would catch up and pass him within a few miles. Sure enough just before the first checkpoint he appeared on the horizon but to my surprise he was coming towards me. Just before we reached each other Peter took a left turn and I went right. Peter was back on the official route and again pulling away from me. This happened on 2 more occasions and he still arrived back at the finish before me. Why did he keep going wrong when the route description seemed perfectly clear. It only became clear to me after I got to know Peter that he could sometimes be very dangerous with a route description in his hand especially when it was raining. The glasses would steam up and the lines would merge into one another. This was highlighted during an overnight walk with Peter and Gordon Facer. I was a few yards in front route finding but wanted to double check that we were still on course. I turned around to ask the both of them who were chatting away. The response from Peter was along the lines "not sure I can't see a thing in these glasses when its dark" Gordon was no better!! I thought "why me!!!"

My official introduction to Peter was undertaken on the Surrey Summits in 1991. As I approached Peter just before Box Hill I thought now would be a good time to formally introduce myself. Peter's response was somewhat sharp as I had been calling myself a member of Kent LDWA without paying the subs. When I joined the LDWA I thought it was like the Ramblers i.e. you automatically became affiliated to your local group. Peter put me straight on this point and I pulled away thinking "miserable old sod I'll lose him up Box Hill." Half way up Peter is breathing down my neck telling me who to pay the monies to. At the top he is still on my tail. These early exchanges set the scene and made it very clear to me that I was dealing with no ordinary man!!

Peter passed me on a few walks that year but I had now paid my subs and had nothing to fear. That was until the Gatliff in 1991. Getting ready for the start Peter approached me and stated (not asked!) that I could walk with his group. My life would never be the same again.

Peter and Pauline started the Brecons weekend in 1992 and it was not long before I was invited to spend a weekend each year in October with Peter planning the walks. The weekend would start on Friday night with me going over to the family home at Belvedere to have dinner and stay the night before setting off early Saturday morning. I will always remember our first weekend. With a grin on his face, as I do not like getting up in the middle of the night, Peter advised that he would give me a knock at 4.00am. My watch must have been slow as the knock arrived at just after 3.30. It was only after I had showered and gone downstairs that I was to discover that my watch was OK. The grin was still there!!

The journey to South Wales would always be broken by stopping for breakfast at Delemere Service Station. Saturday would be spent on the hills before retiring to our B&B where the hosts were well known to Peter. We would normally go down the pub to eat but occasionally dinner would be provided. A few beers and a bottle of wine later pudding would be served. I was already full but every effort must be made to enjoy the feast of home made cooking. Peter was no exception. That is until he was undecided whether to go for the trifle or apple pie. Both was not an option given the amount that had already been consumed. I was wrong. Peter opted for the trifle but asked if he could take the apple pie home with him. I thought he was joking until

as we prepared to leave.
it arrived Sunday morning. Few people would have had the nerve to ask let alone get away with it.

Whilst the walks were always carefully planned there execution sometimes left a lot to be desired. One year the route took us over the Black Mountains. The weather was terrible so we decided to drop off the tops and regroup. Peter had the maps so I had not bothered to take mine. When the map was located from Peters rucksack it was for the Forest of Dean where we had been the previous day. How could that happen we asked. Peter without hesitation conveyed that Pauline must have left the wrong one on the bed for him to pick up. We were not convinced especially when you could see the ~~smile~~ ^{smile} on his face. In one short moment I was no longer cold or disappointed that the walk had been cut short. Peter was never allowed to forget this incident.

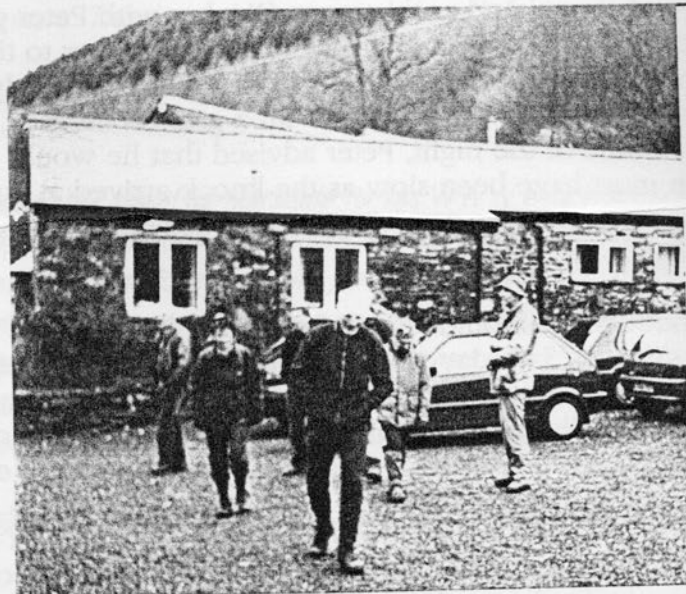
Peter would sometimes be rude to me and indeed others may have experienced the same. I was never offended as I knew that this was Peter's way in letting me know that he liked me. I in turn would tease him. Given Peters pedigree as a champion cyclist I would often ask how difficult it was to get onto a penny farthing let alone race one. The look I got told me that very few people could have got away with such a remark. I was one of the lucky ones.

I feel very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to call Peter a close friend and share part of his life away from the normal rigours of challenge events. He was very proud of Chris, Elida and young Peter his grandson. I remember sitting in the family home with Peter when his grandson arrived for my first meeting with him. It was a very special moment to see the joy on both their faces. The bond between them went a lot deeper than a normal grandfather/son relationship. They were good friends.

It is customary to save the best to last. They say that behind every good man is an even better woman and in Pauline this was clearly the case. It did not take me very long to realise that Peter was only one half of a very special double act. *I will miss him*

My thoughts are with Pauline, Chris, Elida and young Peter.

Andrew Boulden.



ANNUAL LUNCH, DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND ODD SNIPPETS

Forty or so of us gathered at The Shant on Sunday 21 November and enjoyed a good meal in good company. Quite a large proportion had already partaken of a short walk (4/5 miles) and of sausage rolls, mince pies and "laced" coffee, all provided by Mary and Paul Hatcher, at the half-way point. Some took the opportunity to inspect the latest Group photo album (still no offers to take that over from Laurie Lowe) and to collect entry forms for events. Paul gave a short speech thanking Hilary and Roger for organising the lunch, the hotel staff for serving it and the rest of us for coming along to eat it. Roger later got another mention for his work on the Millennium 100 booklet.

Reverting to the WWW I heard again, this time from the horse's mouth, the story of how one walker seemed to have got lost. At the Forest Row checkpoint Harold Mann was subjected to an effusive greeting and embrace from the ever-ebullient Jill Green.. Unaccustomed (he says) to such experiences he was distracted from his allotted task of recording the numbers of the walkers as they arrived for the half-way meal.

Neal and Jan O'Rourke walked the whole of the Invicta Hundred Route over the August Bank Holiday weekend with very little support except at Pluckley from Paul and Mary and at Otford Station from members of Jan's family. They did it in a very creditable time and deserve our hearty congratulations. Perhaps there will be a full account in the next issue which will contain details of:-

St. Mary's North Downs Challenge from Kemsing on Saturday 13th May 2000. and Paul's Post-Hundred Provender Plod from Ulcombe on Monday 5th June 2000.

Don't forget the A.G.M. on 30th January for which papers are enclosed.

Deadline for April issue **MONDAY MARCH 6**. Seasonal Greetings, Tom S.

MILLENNIUM HUNDRED

The Millennium Hundred Committee was pleased to hear, on 8/11/99, a positive report from Ron Roweth who, with Ann Beeching's help, had been testing the route description and found it "up to the usual Kent Group standard". Less pleasing was the message from Kevin Puttock to say he had received a very few replies offering help on the event. The slip was printed on the back page of the April Newsletter and another slip will appear at the foot of this page, again with nothing on the back, so that we all have another opportunity to let Kevin know of our availability. Even if you have spoken to a member of the committee and said you will help **PLEASE** fill in the form, indicating any skills or equipment you can offer, and return it to Kevin.

In case you have **still** not made a note the dates for the main event are:-
Saturday 27th, Sunday 28th and Monday 29th May, 2000.

It will be a case of "all hands to the pump" so Kent Group members wishing to do the Millennium Hundred will be expected to enter the Marshals' Walk on 29th, 30th April and 1st May 2000 and, having done so, to be prepared to help at any time and place over the weekend of the main event, i.e. from 6.00 a.m. on Saturday 27th to 12 noon on Monday 29th May.

If you wish to enter the Marshals' Walk please ask Neal O'Rourke, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] for an entry form SOON.

The closing date for entries to the Marshals' Walk is **31st December 1999**.

The Millennium Hundred is, of course, a National event and Kent Group members cannot, therefore, be disbarred from entering. Nevertheless the expectation, particularly for those who already have main event hundred completions under their belts, is for our own people to enter the Marshals' Walk and then to make themselves available to help on the main event. After all we are the host group!

N.B. Neil Higham, our Treasurer, is also responsible for publicity. Please let him have any ideas, names & addresses of media contacts, etc., etc. Similarly Andrew Boulden would be pleased to hear of any potential sponsors.

To: Kevin Puttock, [REDACTED]

Name(s).....LDWA No.....Date.....
Tel.No.....(Daytime).....(Evening)

I/we can offer help on the Main Event (27-29 May 2000)* ☐

I/we can offer help on the Marshals' Walk (29 April - 1 May)* ☐

*If not free for all 3 days please put dates here.....

I have already agreed to:-.....

I am particularly interested in.....

.....(e.g. catering, driving, HQ admin.)+

+ These are but a few of the jobs available. If in doubt **ASK**.

I have entered the Marshals' Walk

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