

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

SURREY GROUP

REPORT AND PROGRAMME

OCTOBER 1981

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24 members attended the meeting at The leg ofutton and Cauliflower on 6th October. Once again the function room was taken by another organization so we had to make do with the restaurant. Also we had to wait for diners to finish thereby causing the meeting to start late and some of the business to be rushed. The officers were asked to investigate the possibilities of finding alternative premises for our meetings.

On looking through the June report, comment was made that the results for the Cumbrian Hundred had not yet been received. Chris Steer had written to Tony Cresswell but had not received a reply, however, the national committee were aware of the problem and are urging Tony to get the results, badges and certificates out.

The treasurer was not present but he left a statement to the effect that the group has funds to the tune of £160. This does not include the profit from the Surrey Semite which should be in the region of £80 or the Guildford Boundary which will also show a large profit.

Tony Cartwright suggested that the Surrey Group have their own Tee Shirts and running vests. The suggestion had been prompted mainly from other teams in the Kabac Fun Run League turning out in their 'team colours' but if we had printed running vests, the same design could be used for tee shirts. Very little time was available for discussion so I would be interested in comments from members on the idea in readiness for the next meeting.

The suggestion was made that the group should have some "warning" notices to motorists to be used on events where the route goes over or along a busy road. The suggestion will be considered.

It was decided to spend £40 on a general purpose checkcard for Surrey group events. Organizers please note these checkcards will be available shortly.

THE ALAN BLATCHFORD MEMORIAL FUND

Alan's many friends and acquaintances have donated over £3000 towards a memorial for him. Most of the money has been given to the National Trust to be used for initial clearance on land the trust has recently acquired a long term lease. Fences are to be erected with an ample supply of stiles to allow both sheep grazing and public access. The land is part of the Evelyn estate along the scarp slope of the North Downs between Hackhurst down and Hansmore. (North of the A25 Guildford - Dorking Road). 40 acres of this land is now known as "Blatchford Down".

Many of Alan's family and close friends attended the opening ceremony on 18th October, when the National Trust sign proclaiming the land to be "Blatchford Down" was unveiled. A series of walks to "Blatchford Down" are being planned for a mass picnic and a brief talk by a member of the National Trust on 23rd May 1982. The route of the Pilgrims 100 plus event will also go through "Blatchford Down".

The Surrey Group have volunteered to clear a sunken path running through "Blatchford Down" and the 2 days chosen for this exercise are Sunday 1st November and Saturday 5th December. Details are given in the programme so please make an effort to attend one or both of these parties if you can.

The money donated in excess of £3000 will be used to provide glass fronted map cases for Yarners Hatch Youth Hostel.

PAST EVENTS AND WALKS

During the summer we have had only one social walk. More were not planned because the number of events in the area and holidays may have meant social walks would be poorly attended. Some members have expressed a desire that there should be regular social walks throughout the summer even though the number taking part may be depleted. Perhaps this can be borne in mind when planning the 1982 programme.

As far as I know, only 2 Surrey Group members went on the Lyke Wake Walk coach trip organized by the Essex/Ferts group. Both enjoyed themselves and thought the transportation to be well organized and the backup superb.

Our sole social walk, The Midsummer Evening Walk, attracted 24 members. Barbara Blatchford led us on an 8 mile plus route to the east of Guildford to finish back at 11 Thorn Bank with the usual banquet awaiting us.

On the Weybec Walk, 148 runners/walkers set off from Godalming to negotiate the various fishing rods along the 17 miles of the Wey Navigation towpath to the B&E sports ground at Weybridge. The pace was hot with a quarter of the field finishing in less than 4 hours and 25 of those finishing in less than 3 hours. Unfortunately the 100% record was not maintained because the first 2 retirements were recorded in the 5 year history of the walk.

The Yarners marathon once again lived up to it's reputation as being the most popular walk of it's kind in the country. Like the winter version many said how they appreciated the route going over the relatively little trodden eastern side of the A24. Also much appreciated was the route marking.

Mervyn Harvey tried to organize a coach trip for group members to go to the Dorset Docks but only one person showed any interest so the project had to be abandoned. Several Surrey Group members did make their own way down to the walk and enjoyed 35 miles in blistering hot sunshine on a surprisingly tough coastal course.

Vince Smith again defied the meteorologists to provide a fair day (with only slight drizzle at times) for his twelfth Chiltern Marathon. There were 438 who took part in this 25 mile meander in the Chilterns of which 406 finished inside and 14 outside the 9 hour time limit. The LDWA was the winning team for the second year running.

The Guildford Boundary Walk was 'back home' at the normal venue of Henley Port this year. The preceding night was very wet and windy but this did not produce the floods to the 1980 standard. The route was changed to avoid going over the busy six laned new A3 and many commented favourably on this change as being a scenic as well as a safety improvement. There were 292 starters of which 280 finished in times ranging from 2 hours 48 mins to 9 hours 26 mins.

SOCIAL EVENINGS

Our new policy to devote a whole evening to a slide show (rather than trying to cram one in at the end of a planning meeting) proved very successful. We had 2 shows which were both well attended and those who came were rewarded with very entertaining evenings.

In July, Ann Sayer came to Cobham to show us photos taken on her 837 mile record breaking walk from Lands End to John o'Groats. A number of people confessed they felt worn out just watching Ann exerting all that energy but declared they enjoyed the show. There were also many appreciative comments on the refreshments provided by Roy Barnsley

In September, Noel Vincent visited Ashted with slides illustrating how 2 derelict cottages were converted into the Tannors Hatch Youth Hostel we know and love. The operation was carried out by voluntary labour during wartime when materials were scarce and the improvisations made were quite educational. I'm sure we will view Tannors with renewed interest as we pass by on our walks after listening to Noel and probably Surrey Dumfries times will suffer as a result of this. Noel intends forming an association to ensure the preservation of the youth hostel "The Friends of Tannors Hatch". The Surrey Group has reserved a donation to the association and there will be an appeal for individual members to subscribe when the association is formed.

Thank you Ann and Noel. You have certainly set a very high standard for these shows.

MARAC FUN RUN LEAGUE

Dave Challenger has been the LDWA representative on the Marac Fun Run League since we joined the League and would now like a rest. ARE THERE ANY VOLUNTEERS TO TAKE OVER PLEASE? The duties involve serving on the league committee, distribution of results to about 30 members after every monthly run and organizing one run per year. Further details from Dave.

The 3 road runs, The Leatherhead 10, The Cranleigh 15 and The Alan Blatchford Masters and Maidens Marathon all went well although it was disappointing that many who had entered for the marathon never turned up, bearing in mind that many would be entrants were turned away because the entry limit had been reached.

After nine events in the 1981 league, the LDWA are lying 3rd with 4255 points, 457 points behind the current leaders, Faltham Puffers.

Congratulations to Mark Fiddard on running 163 miles 1249 yards in 24 hours at the Coptall Stadium, Wendon on 10/11th October to take the U.K. national record. Mark is a member of the Surrey Group and regularly runs for us in the Marac Fun Run League.

THE PILGRIMS HUNDRED PLAN

Unfortunately when I wrote up the June report I consulted a 1980 calendar instead of one for 1982. The correct dates for the LDWA 1982 big one is Sat/Sun/Mon 29/30/31 May. Sorry for the confusion.

As the walk's main start is in our area, I have volunteered the group's services to organize and man the Guildford starting point. This will be at Henley Port. We will be dealing with the registration etc. for the 2 Guildford starts (walkers 12 midday, runners 5.p.m.) and providing the 40 mile app checkpoint for the Winchester start which will be at 10.a.m.

I would also like to see the Surrey group members using their local expertise to help man some of the Surrey checkpoints. If you are willing to help, please let me know.

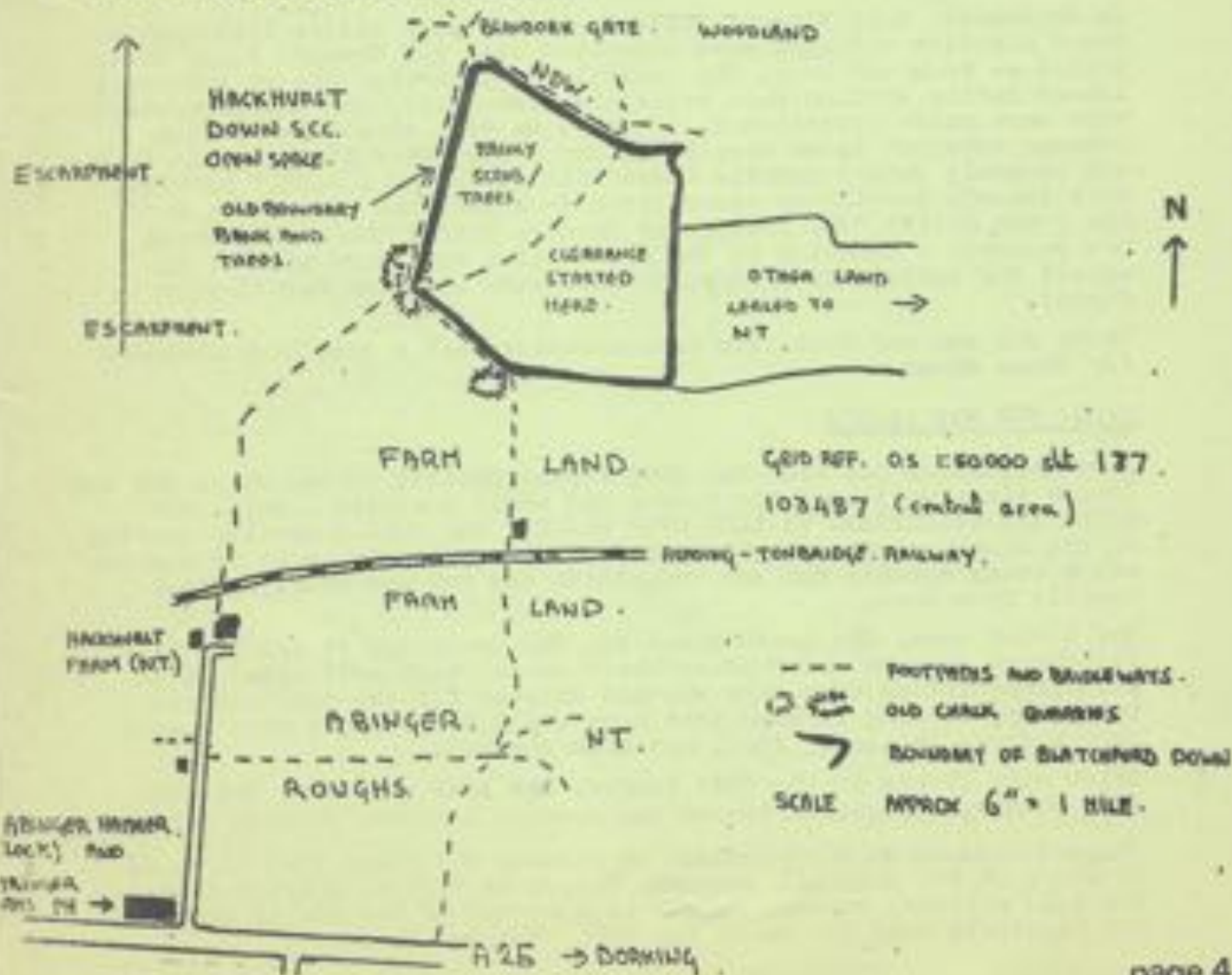
I know this is asking a lot, coming as it does so soon after the Surrey Summits, but I'm sure Surrey Group members will respond in their usual generous manner to help make both events successful

My thanks to Bob Bell and the Youngs Yeomanry for volunteering to man the breakfast checkpoint on the Pilgrims.

Enjoy your walking (or whatever you do)

John H Westcott
(Hon Secretary)

How to get to Blatchford Down



PROGRAMME TO JUNE 1982 - HAN with all postal enquiries please.

Another varied programme has been planned with social walks, events by day, events by night and social evenings.

I would once again mention that event organizers will be pleased to receive offers of help with the "on the day" administration and to man the checkpoints. These events include Winter Yenners, Panchbowl Marathon, Surrey Summits, Eghurst 100 run and Wayboc.

Hambars following the event etc refer to the OS 1:50000 map covering the route or location.

SUNDAY 1st Nov 1981: BLATCHFORD DOWN PATH CLEARANCE. (187) - see also sketch map. All Surrey Group members who can make it are asked to help clear the sunken bridleway going diagonally across Blatchford Down centreing on GR 103487. Main party will meet 9.45 a.m. at Junction A25/B2126 in Abinger Hammer GR 096474 (limited car parking available here). Tools will be provided but assistance will be needed to carry them to the operational site. There will be plenty of tea but please bring your own food. Those who cannot make it by 9.45 are welcome to come along later but as parking is limited in Abinger Hammer it may be better to use the white downs road car park. GR 115493. Finish about 3.30 pm.

FRIDAY 20th Nov 1981: RETIREMENT ROUTE MARCH THROUGH SPAIN AND FRANCE (187). A slide show by Tony Youngs of his journey into Europe following his freedom from matters of state. Venue is Log of Dutton and Cauliflower, Ashted GR 187580. 7.30 p.m for 8.

SUNDAY 22nd Nov 1981: THAMES TRAMP (176). An 18 mile plus social walk with Bill Grace starting at the road and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north west of Putney Bridge on the south side of the river. GR 235762. The route includes a riverside walk and goes over Wisbledon Common and Richmond Park. Start at 9 a.m.

SATURDAY 28th Nov 1981: TANNERS NIGHT HIKE (187). From Tannera Hatch Youth Hostel GR 140515 starting at 8 p.m. 15 miles in the dark with refreshments half way round and at the finish. Details from Graham Peddie.

SATURDAY 5th Dec 1981: BLATCHFORD DOWN PATH CLEARANCE (187) - Please read details as entry for November 1st above.

SATURDAY 12th Dec 1981: HURTWOOD HUSTLE (187). Our annual dinner and raffle. A walk led by Chris Stear starting from Pond Lane Car Park, Fenslake. GR 086449. The walk will finish at The Hurtwood Inn at 6 p.m. for dinner at 7. It is hoped to have a room available for changing. Four course meal will cost £5.95 per head - the main course is roast chicken. There are still a few places left for dinner so if you would like to go please book with Tony Youngs with £1 deposit. You need not go on the walk to book the dinner but Tony would like to know if you are coming to the dinner only.

SUNDAY 27th Dec 1981: WINTER WINDSOR WANDER (176). Walk or run from Steines Bridge car park (north side) going along the Thames towpath, through Windsor Great Park and back along the towpath to Steines Bridge. Walkers start at 9 a.m. on 15 mile route and runners start at 10 a.m. on 19 mile route. Map and notes available on the day. 10p entry fee to cover paperwork and squash. Details from Ralph Sanley.

FRIDAY 1st Jan 1982: SUNBEY IN'S KANTER (186 & 187). A light hearted start to the new year starting from St Catherine's Hall, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford GR 992485. Checkpoints are unsanned but most of them are at pubs. 12 Or 18 miles and you start any time between 9.15 and 11 a.m. Details from Keith Chesterton.

SUNDAY 10th Jan 1982: WINTER TANNERS (187). A 30 mile walk in central Surrey as a route proving exercise for the summer event. Start and finish at main gate to Leatherhead Football Club. GR 163560. No undercover but there will be 2 checkpoints at which hot drinks will be available. Entry fee 30p before Jan 3rd or 50p after (including on the day). Starts between 8 and 10 a.m. Details from John Westcott.

THURSDAY 28th Jan 1982: PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING AND AGM (187)
At The Log of Mutton and Cauliflower, Ashted GR 187580. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY 7th Feb 1982: PUNCHBOWL MARATHON (186) A 30 or 21 mile walk in eastern Surrey starting at Chichester Hall, Witley. GR 947394. Entry fee is 70p (90p non members) pre entry or £1.20 (£1.40 non members on the day). Starts at 8, 9 and 10 a.m. Details from Jeff Ellingham.

SUNDAY 14th Mar 1982: CISEBURY CIRCUIT (198). 20 odd miles on the South Downs. Lunch at Washington. "But the swipes they take in at the Washington Inn / Is the very best beer I know" (Milaire Bolloc). Meet 9.30 a.m. in the car park at TQ 129077, (turn east off A24 into May Tree Avenue at "Cisbury Ring Free Car Park" sign just within the Worthling boundary; first left up Storrington Rise to car park). Illustrated route sheet from Tony Youngs in the new year.

SAT-SUN 27/28 Mar 1982: TANNERS HINDHEAD AND REVERSE (186 & 187).
A chance to walk the 26 miles between these 2 Surrey Youth Hostels and back again the following day if you so wish. You can start from Tanners (GR 140535) or Hindhead (GR 894368) on the Saturday but from Hindhead only on the Sunday. Details from Graham Peattie.

SAT-SUN 3/4 Apr 1982: SURREY SUMMITS (186 & 187). A 100 Kilometer challenge walk over the popular hills of central and western Surrey. Start this year will be from Chichester Hall, Witley GR 947394. Start at 10 a.m. The route will be basically the same as previous years but in reverse. Closing date for entries is 3rd Mar 1982. Details from John Westcott.

SUNDAY 23rd May 1982: SLATCHFORD DOWN WALKS AND PICNIC: Barbara Blatchford will be circulating details to various organizations later.

SATURDAY 12th June 1982: EMURST 100 MILE (187). A road run of 100 miles with an 18 hour time limit. 10 x 10 mile legs. Starting from Emurst Village Hall GR 091403 at 6 a.m. Details from Graham Peattie.

TUESDAY 22nd June 1982: KIDCOURSER EVENING WALK (186 & 187). From 11 Thorn Bank, Guildford GR 983493. About 6 to 8 miles starting at 7 p.m. Leader Barbara Blatchford.

SUNDAY 27th June 1982: WEYBAC WALK (186 & 187) An easy 17 mile walk along the Wey Navigation from Godalming to British Aerospace sports ground at Weybridge. A proposition was made that the walk should be re-routed down the Basingstoke canal with an appropriate change in name. This would need a rowing boat to act as a ferry where the canal meets the Wey navigation (things people will do to make their walks different). This was thought not to be a very good idea as it is not known if the canal restoration programme would interfere with the route. The usual route stands therefore for the time being. Details will be available from Peter Short in due course but I'm sure he would not welcome enquiries for some months yet.