



LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - SURREY GROUP

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### THE PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING

There were 19 members who attended the meeting on 25th September at our new venue The Lord Howard at Effingham. Although the attendance was still a little on the low side, those who were there generally approved of the arrangements. We will try to hold our meetings at Effingham on a regular basis but as we are using the "family room" of the pub, the landlord may be reluctant to close it off for us during the summer months.

We will be holding our A G M there in January so please do your best to attend. I include the grid reference in the entry in the programme but even so 2 people went to the other end of Effingham before they found the right place. Remember The Lord Howard is on the crossroads 200 yards north of Effingham Junction station.

The treasurer reported the group's bank balance was in the region of £530. This was mainly due to a profit of £240 being made from the Surrey Summits. The profit from the Guildford Boundary was not yet known but in any case this would be donated to the 5th Guildford Scouts Group as decided at the meeting on 26th January 1984.

A Mike Savard had written to the secretary asking the group to help finance a 2 year venture he had been selected for called "Operation Raleigh". In return Mike would be willing to give a talk to our members about his experiences on his return. It was agreed to donate £20 and take up the offer of the talk.

The meeting took on the air of a jumble sale when the secretary read out a letter from the national groups secretary trying to flog some of the LDWA lapel badges as featured in Rogers Market in Strider. One or two were sold but if anybody wants one at the special price of 10 pence each, just mention this to John Westcott when you see him. If you could see your way clear to taking 2 or 3 so much the better.

## PAST EVENTS AND WALKS

Barbara Blatchford's Midsummer Evening Walk again proved popular. It is difficult to say how many there were because some tagged on while others peeled off during the walk. Thought to be about 16 stalwarts and 5 fringe support. We went south of Guildford through the Loseley Estate, Shalford and then on to the high ground at the Chastries to survey the Surrey/Sussex/Bants countryside in the gathering gloom. Climbing the hill to get the view certainly helped to work up an appetite for the food back at 11 Thorbank.

The Weybec Walk was cancelled. As most of the walkers on this event are transported from the finish to the start it needs at least a coachful taking part to make it economically viable and there was insufficient support to do this. The main reason is thought to be poor publicity owing to the national committee policy not to include walks of less than 20 miles in the Strider's feature "Future Events". It is sad that this event which forms part of the early history of the LDWA should be abandoned in this way. Some present at the meeting felt it should still have taken place even if walkers made their own way between the finish and the start. It was agreed every effort be made to hold the event in future even if it means reduced numbers and running at a loss.

Over 100 took part in the Tanners Marathon including about 200 on the 10 miler. Most were on the 30 miler (the 25th in 1984) and five of those took part in the first marathon back in 1960. Most got round. One of the functions I perform on this event is to mark the course and I am told many of the walkers do not bother to look at the route description but just follow the arrows. I just wonder why we bother to produce a route description and even hold the winter Tanners to prove it when it does not appear to be used.

Mervyn Harvey managed to lick up some little known paths in Western Surrey to make up a very nice walk which he called Gadding about Godalming. The sketch map we were given at the start showed various features we should look for and being high summer stinging nettles were shown in quite a few places and they did not take much looking for. On one occasion Richard Brown went past the path thinking that not even a Surrey Group walk leader would take walkers down there but Mervyn assured him that was the way. After we

got to the end of that path, Mervyn (who had been keeping to the rear of the crocodile) declared that "one thing about the LDWA is they never moan whatever they have to put up with". Just before we stopped for lunch we passed an old looking building at Pierpoint school which I am told is fairly modern and was originally the home of Coebe of Watney, Coebe Reid. Fortunately we were spared having to continue the association at lunchtime - the pub we stopped at in Millbridge sold a good selection of ale and food.

The luck of Vince Smith held out once again with a fine day for the Chiltern Marathon. Vince described the conditions (with the air of an organizer writing up his report for the 15th consecutive year) as a warm southwesterly blowing with a bit of sun making it ideal for walking. There were 480 entries with a surprising 104 of those not turning up to take part. Perhaps this is because the event is so popular they have to book up so early to get in that you forget you have entered when the time comes. There were 356 who completed the 25 mile route and if you were not one of those you have another chance to do it in 2 years time when this route, going up to Ibston will be repeated.

The Guildford Boundary enjoyed a generally overcast day with some sunshine. Once again a large number of on the day entries caused problems with the organizers and in all there were 380 entries with 350 starters. Of these 326 finished in times ranging from 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours. The last walkers were well over the time limit but they were determined to finish because they were sponsored to raise money for a heart unit in a local hospital. The state they finished in indicated they may have need of its services. This was Dan Medfield's first attempt at organizing the marshals and, I do not know whether out of fear or sympathy, got a very good response from his plea for volunteers. Although acknowledgements are normally given in the results of the walk rather than in these columns, I have been asked to make an exception this time and as the request comes from the chairman I had better do it. Dan would like to thank the following for their help in marshalling and manning the checkpoints:

Phil Jackson, Erica Blatchford, Kim and Iona Pasplin,

Louise and Tony Cartwright, Olive and Roy Barnaley, Ken and Erica Mayhew, Brian Baigh and his daughter, Keith Chesterton Mervyn Harvey, Dave Street, Ray Jolly, Des Yeabaley, Cynthia and Ian McLeod, Dave Challenger, Peter Short, Dave and Pauline Shore and Barbara.

#### PATH CLEARANCE

The object of the Surrey Group hatchets, ere this autumn was a couple of paths on the route of the Guildford Boundary Way. The Path from Compton to the Hog's Back and the path through Clendon Park (neglected when blocked off thereby forcing walkers to use a non right of way) were both converted from dense jungle to 6 foot wide footpaths with a speed that would have made a swarm of locusts proud. The walkers on the event a fortnight later certainly had it easier but probably never appreciated the energy which had been expended in their interest.

Our next session is on November 25th back to the area north of the A25. Details are in the programme. Please do your best to attend.

#### MARAC FUN RUN LEAGUE

The LWMA are still trailing at ninth place in the league (out of 90) and with only 2 runs to go it would seem unlikely we will be looking for honours when the final points are totted up. GPS still lead with 4129 points and Wimbledon Windmilers are second with 3722 points. The LWMA's current total is 3606 points.

Dates for the 2 runs left:-

November 4th	Kingswood	11.00.a.m.
December 9th	Brooklands	10.30.a.m.

If you want further details please contact Bob Mottram, Ridings, The Ridgeway, Cranleigh or Ralph Kenley.



PROGRAMME TO MARCH 1985 SAE with all postal enquiries

The numbers following the event etc are the OS 1:50000 map covering the route or location.

Sunday 11 November THE VICTORIAN KANTER (187) From Old Barn Hall, Church Road, Bookham. GR 133548. Choice of 2 routes, approx 12 and 15 miles. Start any time between 9 and 10.30.a.m. Plot your own route between unmanned checkpoints from grid refs given. Details from Dave Challenger.

Sunday 25 November PATH CLEARANCE (187) Backhurst Down Adjacent to Blatchford Down. We will be clearing and waymarking the route of the footpath which runs from Colekitchen Lane to the Drove Road on the Downs. Between GR 097484 and 097491 where it runs over NT and SOC land. The route of the path has been obscure for many years and its clearance should gladden Keith Chesterton's heart. Bring lunch and any tools you have. Hot drinks and some tools will be supplied. We will be working with John Cranham (NT Warden) and the SOC voluntary Aid scheme. Meet 9.30.a.m. at Gomshall Station Car Park off A25. GR 088478 or make your own way to the path between above grid references.

Sunday 2 December A SELBORNE EXPEDITION (186) Start at 8.a.m. from Selborne Car Park. GR 742334. Leader Tom Anderson. See separate article.

Saturday 15 December PEASLAKE 'PERITIF' (187) A walk from Pond Lane Car Park Peaslake TQ 086449 followed by dinner in the evening. Walk or dine, or preferably, both. The walk will start at 10.a.m. Chris Steer hopes to include stops for elevenness, lunch, tea and still cover about 15 to 20 miles, returning to Peaslake at about 6.p.m. Rooms will be available for walkers to change in before dinner.

The dinner will be served at 7.p.m. at the Hartwood Inn Peaslake. The starter will be Egg and Prawns Harlequin, (or Apple, Celery and Cheese Appetiser for those who would prefer it and say so when booking). The main course will be Chicken Supreme Victoria. For sweet a choice of Fruit Salad, Gateau or Cheesecake may be made on the night. Please book early (the room holds only 34) by sending a cheque for £7.95 per head made payable to "LIMA Surrey"

to Tony Younge.

Thursday 27 December WINTER WINDSOR WANDER (176) Walk or run from Fetters Sports Club just south of Staines Bridge roadabout, GR 030714. Most of the route is in the lovely setting of Windsor Great Park with access to and from the starting point along the towpath of the river Thames. Walkers start at 9.a.m. on a 15 mile course and runners start at 10.a.m. on a 19 mile course. Map and route notes available on the day. Further details from Ralph Sealley.

Tuesday 1 January SURREY INNS KANTER (186 & 187) A light hearted start to the new year. Venue is St Catherine's Village Hall Chestnut Avenue Guildford, GR 992455. Checkpoints are unattended but most of them are pubs. 2 routes of 12 and 18 miles. Start between 9.15 and 11.a.m. All to finish by 4.30.p.m. Further details from Keith Chesterton.

Sunday 20 January WINTER TANNERS (186 & 187) A 30 mile walk in Central Surrey as a route proving exercise for the famous summer event. Start and finish in Leatherhead main car park GR 163566. No undercover but there will be hot and cold drinks available at 2 checkpoints. Details from John Westcott

Wednesday 30 January AGM AND PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING (187) At The Lord Howard Effingham GR 103561. 7.30.p.m. for 8. The meeting includes the election of officers and if anybody is interested in serving the group as chairman, secretary or treasurer they can let John Westcott know in advance and their names will be put to the meeting.

Sunday 3 February SPRING CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE (186) A 20 mile plus walk from the Castle Car Park Farnham GR 838487 (between golf club and cricket ground). Organized in conjunction with the Wessex Group. Leader Dan Hadfield.

Sunday 30 February PUNCHBOWL MARATHON (186) A walk in Western Surrey of 18 or 30 miles starting and finishing at Chichester Hall Witley GR 947394. Main start at 8.a.m. with a second start at 9.a.m. for runners and 18 milers. The route is so designed that 30 milers who are behind time can short cut to a shorter walk and still have the satisfaction of officially finishing. Details from Jeff

Ellingham.

Sunday 3 March FIRLE FROLIC (198 & 199) The seven part exploration of the South Downs that started with the Amberley Able in 1978 finds its finale in the Firle Frolic. Twenty plus miles by the river, by the sea and on the downs. Start 9.30.a.m. from Alfrieton Car Park. TQ 520035. Illustrated route sheet available from Tony Younge in February. If you wish to follow the route on one map and you are on good terms with a museum curator the whole route is covered on OS 1" map number 183.

Saturday and Sunday 30/31 March SURREY SUMMITS (186 & 187) A 100 kilometre challenge walk over the popular hills of central and western Surrey. Start and finish at Guildford. Start 10.a.m. Saturday and all to finish by 1.p.m. Sunday (26 hour time limit). Closing date for entries is 28 February. Details from John Westcott.

TOM ANDERSON WRITES about the Selborne expedition

A circular walk visiting Selborne Ranger, Newton Valence, Colemore, Warren Corner, Wheathan Hill, Hawkley, Espshot and Oakhanger. This description may sound like a railway timetable but it is a tour of Gilbert White country. Gilbert White was a famous naturalist who lived in Selborne as a boy and became vicar of the parish. He studied the natural events of the countryside, wildlife, weather, farming and passing of the seasons, in a detailed and logical way.

It must be assumed that he did such country walking during his incumbency at Selborne. It is well to remember this as we walk through this delightful area that is still relatively unspoiled.

Now to more practical points. Walk starts at Selborne public Car Park GR 742554 at 8.a.m. on Sunday 2nd December 1984. OS map 186 covers all of the walk. All walkers are requested to bring own food and drink as there is no planned pub stop. Basic route map available to anybody sending an SAE to Tom Anderson.

THE GATLIFF MARATHON 2nd December 1984

This 50 kilometre challenge walk is being organized by the Croydon F H A group as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations. Unfortunately it does clash with a walk in



our own programme but for those of you who prefer not to go on the social walks this seems an ideal opportunity of getting another event under your belt.

The venue is Parson's Pightle (GR 314572) Purley Rugby Club Old Couledon. Starts at 7.30, 8.30 and 9.30.a.m. described as for walkers, fast walkers and runners respectively. All participants to finish by 17.30. Entry fee is £1.50

Details from Tim Styles, 51 Beddington Gardens, Carshalton, Surrey. SM5 3EL.

#### THE LIMBY WAY

The Essex/Herts group are hoping to organize a coach trip to go up and do this 40 mile walk in the Peak District which was devised by John Merrill. They are inviting other local groups in the South East to join them.

The trip will probably take place the end of June 1985. Anybody who is interested in going would they please contact John Westcott.

#### TANNERS REUNION

As part of the Tanners twenty fifth anniversary celebrations an informal reunion will be held in the Haslemere area on Saturday 3rd November. It will take the form of a buffet meal in the evening possibly preceded by a short walk in the afternoon. Details from Barbara Blatchford.

Thats all for now.  
Good walking everybody

John Westcott.