

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

SURREY GROUP

Report and Programme - June 1988

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PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING - 17th May 1988

There were 24 members who attended the meeting at the new venue at the Star Hotel, Woking. It was thought the room was suitable and we will be visiting the Star Hotel twice in the forthcoming programme - once for the next programme planning meeting in September and again in November for John Probert's slide show of his experiences on the Cambrian Way.

There was a great deal of discussion about social walks. At the planning meeting on 2nd October 1985, it had been decided to have at least 1 social walk in our programme per month but although the policy was diligently adhered to at first, there are signs that it is lapsing now. The point came up when we were discussing the congestion of events in January - The Surrey Inns Kenter, The Winter Tanners and The Funchbowl and it was suggested that a social walk would congest the programme even more. This would tend to leave the social walk poorly attended. The meeting was generally divided between those who thought it did not matter even if only 3 or 4 turned up and others who felt it was disappointing for the organiser, having taken so much trouble to plan, to have such little apparent interest. The consensus of opinion was that we should squeeze a social walk in during January and we managed to gain the services of a new walk leader, Colin Wood, to oblige the decision even though he did seem a little surprised when the secretary asked for some basic details within a week. The meeting went on to further discuss the length of social walks in as much that most of them seem to be advertised as being 20 miles or more and they usually turned out to be a little longer than advertised. This was not the way to attract new members to join in our activities. Peter Hughes particularly related his own experiences in that prior to joining the LDWA he and his wife used to walk with rambling groups with the longest daily walks being 12 miles and it proved to be a big step up to walks of 20 miles plus. They now both regularly take part in social walks and events up to 100 miles but they could

will have been deterred from making progress to their present standard because they found the transition from rambling to long distance walking too much. It was felt walks which were a little less than 20 miles should be arranged which some of the existing members would be able to enjoy as well as giving an opportunity to introduce newcomers to the long distance walking scene gradually.

Peter Hughes also went on to say that he considered that somebody should contact new LDWA members in our area with a view to informing them of our activities and encouraging them to join in. He also agreed to be the person to do the job. The meeting agreed it was a good idea and that Peter should implement it. I should mention that Peter was about to lead his first social walk for the Surrey Group on the following Sunday and the "details" of the walk he had produced, before the meeting, had greatly impressed those present on his ability to cope with paper work. He has already got to work by arranging a second programme of what he calls "unofficial social walks" and these are published in this newsletter after the main programme.

The following letter from Phyl Jackson was read to the meeting:

"Herewith my 50p for the newsletter.

Will you please convey my suggestion at the next meeting that this sub is done away with, as the Sussex Group already have.

If Surrey has so much to give away to charity surely it can afford to send newsletters to all in the area. You might then get more support on weekends etc. with the extra publicity.

It seems hardly worth the cost of a cheque and postage for people like me who lack time and transport to attend events and meetings and so meet you and pay up then. All meant quite kindly."

Other members, over the years, have stated they feel 50p is such a small sum that it is hardly worth sending by post and find difficulty in paying the sub, either not seeing the treasurer very often or forgetting it when they do. When Surrey Group introduced a subscription it was necessary in order to finance the group's administration expenditure. This situation did not last long because profits from the Surrey Group events made us very affluent, the monies being received from subscriptions being insignificant in comparison, we could well run the group without this source of income. When the point was discussed some time ago, the objection to dispensing with subscriptions was firstly the administration expenses would rise considerably and secondly we would not know exactly who our members are. Currently we have several members who live outside the Surrey area, including one in the south of France, while others who live in our area have decided to give their allegiance to other groups. The amount of the subscription has been fixed to basically cover the cost of posting the newsletter with a little rounding up - I think to save wear on the treasurer's pocket - a 50p piece taking less room and less weight than 4 x 10p pieces. 20p pieces had not been invented at the time.

The general feeling of those present at the meeting was that subscriptions should not be scrapped but rather increased to make the amount viably remittable by post. Although it is not for me to dictate policy I would not think this a good motive for increasing the subscription especially when we do not need the additional funds. Perhaps members could pay a number of years in advance to bring it to a worthwhile sum to pay and get the whole thing out of the way for some time. If this were to be adopted as a policy we would need to make provision for what happens in the event of the sub being increased before the advance has expired. It would be as well to get the point clarified at the next meeting, before we start to collect the 1989 subs, so "subscriptions" will be included as an item on the agenda. Those present will be asked to vote on whether

the sub should be increased, left as it is or abolished and, if retained, whether facilities should be offered to pay a number of years in advance.

A lively meeting even without Keith Chesteron being present.

One final point I would like to make about Phil's letter concerns her reference to giving money to charity. I assume she refers to the donations we made to The National Trust and the Hartwood Control and perhaps it would be as well for me to explain more fully the reasons for making these donations for the benefit of those members who were not at the meeting when the decision to do so was made. Both organisations are involved with the upkeep of footpaths in Surrey, especially in the more popular walking areas and generally our county is a better place to walk in for the work they do. Being an association whose members particularly enjoy the facilities "The Trust" and "The Control" provide, we make these donations in appreciation of their efforts on our behalf and to help towards the costs. My own view is that even if we did not have monies readily available to finance these donations we should raise funds for the purpose. At present that is not necessary though.

John Westcott

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPLY

In taking up the enormous responsibility as chairman of the Surrey Group, I thought I had better list some of my qualifications for this prestigious post.

As mentioned by the secretary (Feb 88 newsletter), I do not suffer from event psychosis but have participated in Downman 2, Cleveland 1, The first Surrey Summits, The Long Mynd, The first Winter Yenners plus the Guildford Boundary and The Chiltern 25. I also participated in the London Countryway 55, an event in all but name!! If I dare mention it in this newsletter, I have run in the first 2 Masters and

Maldens road marathons. So I have some concept of the events scene.

Walking alone has always, to me, been a vastly more rewarding and demanding pastime and on our mountains, in the winter, can be really committing. I am also an inveterate Munro Bagger, Bridge Crosser, Wall Climber, Corbit Chaser and Donald Dodger. However I do enjoy leading and participating in social walks and make every effort to attend them despite long pub stops!!! Our local countryside has a wealth of historical remains and of course a varied habitat for flora and fauna which is all there for the keen observer on our social walks, because there is always time to stop and stare!

Walkers should always be aware of the things they see not just following the next person ahead. I am much heartened on recent social walks that leaders are now doing their homework on their routes. It makes a lot of difference to know what you are viewing. Keep it up!!

However, I hope Surrey Group members continue to support events locally as well as nationally during my tenancy as chairman as the whole concept of the organisation was founded on organised walks. In particular, our long suffering secretary would always be glad of help marshalling Surrey Group events. This can be very interesting (and amusing) to see an event from the other side so to speak. So lets have more new helpers please.

As all good epistles must come to an end enjoy your walking where ever it is.

Tom Anderson

PAST EVENTS

THE PUNCHBOWL MARATHON

We were once again very luck with the weather this year. Like last year we were given a really glorious day in which to enjoy our scenic Surrey countryside.

Last year the ground was a bit hard whilst this year the great volume of surface water that had been in evidence during the week had, in the most part, been evaporated by the strong winds; leaving a residue of mud.

Despite no short alternative this year we had a significant entry with 254 starters. Of the 248 to finish the 30 miler, only one exceeded the 11 hour time limit. I think this shows that the majority prefer a plain 30 miler without frills. The short courses will NOT be re-introduced as the car parking space will not hold many more. This event will no doubt attract more and more each year if only because more and more walkers will hear about the LDWA and take advantage of what we have to offer. So please, for this event at least, SHARE YOUR CAR WITH ANOTHER MEMBER IN FUTURE.

After 30.6 miles, with a great deal of mud followed by what seemed like fording a river at the 27.5 mile point, it was not surprising that only 13 ventured out for a further 10 miles to gain the 40 mile certificate. At least they were rewarded by a second welcoming smile from Linda Dixon at her cottage in the Devil's Punchbowl.

Jeff Ellingham

WATERSHIP WALK-ABOUT

In the grey light of dawn, twelve valiant walkers assembled on White Hill to engage their minds and bodies in the physical and mental toil of the Watership Walk-about. It was a good day for walking, dry but cloudy with very little mud on the high downs. The route took us through Mannington, with its interesting church, with its Whistler window. On round to Overton, with the group puzzling about my question of what was made there?

We viewed the River Test, and the splendid church with its charming peal of bells and began our northward re-

ascent of the downs passing several places mentioned in the book including Cessar's Belt.

On dropping down to Echinswell we viewed the very steep escarpment of Watership Down at its most impressive angle. The pub in Echinswell was visited by two thirds of the party while the rest enjoyed the sun which came out to bless our luncheon at the village war memorial.

After a short lunch, the party regrouped, the bear being courage would not have been passed by our absent bear taster. Onward to Burghclere through meadows, fields and an old railway line to Old Burghclere and another lovely church. And finally, the best section of the walk, over Lalle Mill, Watership Down and Cannon Mearth Down in the evening sunshine with great views towards the setting sun.

We returned to the start after an almost springlike days walk and as we drunk our hot soup provided by my wife Anne, we watched the dark angel close the portals of night across the winter landscape.

Tom Anderson - Chairman

SURREY SUMMITS

The thirteenth Surrey Summits proved lucky for those taking part as we were blessed with what was probably the finest weather conditions on any event to date. The day was dry but not too hot and when darkness came the small amount of cloud allowed the light from the wisp of moon to penetrate to take the blackness out of the darkness. The temperature did not drop too much during the night either. The underfoot conditions were also very good with relatively little mud although, on the couple of occasions when mud was encountered it really was mud - deep and equalchy.

There were major changes to the route this year. Although most of the summits on the 12 previous events were visited, there was about 50% of the route which had never been used on any Surrey Summits before. Many

said they approved of the change and certainly there was nothing but approval for the new main checkpoint at Blackheath and the hot meal provided there - stew and mashed potatoes to the Mayhew recipe.

Of the 229 entrants 198 started under the new staggered start arrangement, setting walkers off over a period of 40 minutes rather than the mad mass dash normally associated with the start. The arrangement worked well for organisers and walkers alike. There were 151 who finished and, at a 76% success rate, this seemed rather low in view of the ideal conditions. Martyn Greaves and Bill Grace were among the finishers so keeping up their 100% record of having completed all Surrey Summits events to date. One interesting record was that 34 ladies took part - twice as many as on any previous Surrey Summits event.

John Westcott

TRUNDLE TREK

On 17 April 1988, 29 walkers set out from Bignor Hill on the Trundle Trek, seven of them veterans of the 1980 expedition. The average age of the party was brought sharply down by three second generation walkers, Mark Wood and Tim and David Toft.

There are new drawings on the 1988 route sheet, but the old words, mostly by Hilaire Belloc, remain. (If anybody would like a copy, please send me on S&E). The route was much the same as before, except that we used the South Downs Way to climb Littleton Down because the preferable way was carelessly and sadly left off the Definitive Map and therefore had not been cleared of the storm damaged trees that blocked it - a salutary lesson on the importance of doing one's best to ensure that such paths are added to the map as rights of way.

It was a wretched day with rapidly moving low cloud that obscured many of the views; we did not see the Isle of Wight or Beachy Head from the Trundle.

Boxgrove Priory and Halsacker Mill met the chairman's requirement for a bit of culture on Surrey Group walks and his weighty new responsibilities inhibited him from forming a runaway splinter group on the Stone Street Stroll back to Bignor Hill. By then the air had miraculously cleared and the view across the Weald extended to Reigate Hill.

Next year we move eastwards for the Amberly Ashle, last walked in 1979.

Tony Youngs

POINTS KANTERS

52 took part altogether with 37 entering the standard event, 19 the 21 mile Points Kenter and 6 the 13 mile one. There were more failures to complete than I can remember on any Kenter with 2 not finishing on each of the 2 points kenters but 19 on the standard! Perhaps the hot weather and the beautiful wild flowers made people too contemplative to walk.

Competitors had a lot of fun with some clues - and so did the organisers trying to mark the scores! The initials on Hascombe Beeches gave the most trouble and we accepted about 5 different answers, tho', quite independently, the 2 organisers found the same - KOW. We also accepted Walcott (a marvellous West Indian batsman) as well as wickets. We did not accept Charollate or Horse instead of Alcestione - there was a large notice. Several people did not find the little footpath near the road by Winkworth and so missed the steps. Some were careless with the postbox and did not pick up RR VII as Edward 7th.

There were 3 all corrects on the 21 miler - all Guildford Orioleers and Grease Crowe, having delayed his holiday by a day to do it, got his 100% on the 13. Thanks to all who took part. It's hard work organising a points kenter, but fun if you are not too busy. However, next time we will drop the very short one.

Keith Chatterton

PROGRAMME TO JANUARY 1982

SAE with all postal enquiries.

- SUN JUL 3 TANNERS MARATHONS. OS 187. A 30 mile event in central Surrey from The Leatherhead Football Club. GR 183560. Also the popular 10 miler. The planned 50 miler will not now be taking place. Details from Alan Virgo.
- SUN JUL 17 MAHARAJAHS ROUNDABOUT. OS 174 & 175. A circular walk of about 25 miles with much interest and intrigue which will be revealed on the day. Start and finish at car park on B4003 west of Stratley. 9 a.m. start. Leader Tom Anderson.
- SUN AUG 14 LINGFIELD LOOP. OS 187. A circular walk visiting 3 counties, 2 long distance paths, 1 hill fort and no murrice. Meet 9 a.m. at Lingfield village car park (signed) on south side of B2023. GR 387437. Leader Barbara Blitchford.
- SUN SEP 11 CHILTERN MARATHON. OS 175. A 25 mile event which explores some of the hills and valleys of the Chilterns. Starts and finishes at Marlow Rugby Football Club. GR 663883. Entry fee £2.00 - advance entries and £2.50 - on the day. Further details from John Peryer
- SUN SEP 18 GUILDFORD BOUNDARY WALK. OS 185. A 20 mile challenge event mainly aimed at newcomers and families but also enjoyed by LONA members who like the easier pace generally or just now and again. The route follows approximately the boundary of the Guildford Borough between 1933 and 1974. The venue is Henley Fort on the Hogs Back Guildford. GR 982489. Walkers can start anytime between 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m. (faster walkers must start after 10 otherwise they will find the checkpoints will not be open when they pass through) and runners/joggers start at 12 noon. All to finish by 7 p.m. Details from John Westcott.

TUES SEP 20 PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING. OS 186. At The Star Hotel, Hook Heath, Woking, GR 994567. 7.30 p.m. for 8.

FRI-SUN OCT 14-16 WEEKEND AT BRIXHAM OS 202*. Travel to Brixham by minibus or car (depending on support) on Friday, walk on Dartmoor and/or Coastal Path on Saturday and Sunday morning then travel back during Sunday afternoon to arrive in Surrey early evening. Pickup and dropdown points to be arranged to suit those who take part. Stay at the Torbay Heights Private hotel Friday and Saturday, the hosts being Ron and Carole Walters who used to be active members of the Surrey Group before they moved to Devon. Cost around £40 to include transport, food, accommodation and route information. Bookings to and further information from Mervyn Harvey.

SAT NOV 5 COMMONS CLUMP. OS 176 & 186. An afternoon stroll of about 12 miles over Chobham and Horsell commons visiting Staple Hill (at 300ft a.s.l. the highest point in north west Surrey), and Chobham International Airport. Starts from Foxhollow, Coxhill, Chobham, GR 984011, at 2 p.m. Leader Chris Staer. There will be some refreshments afterwards so please let Chris know if you are cooking for catering purposes. There should also be some fireworks this year.

TUES NOV 15 THE CAMBRIAN WAY. OS 186. John Probert will show slides of his traverse of this rugged Welsh long distance path. The venue is The Star Hotel, Hook Heath, Woking, GR 994576.

SUN NOV 20 PATH CLEARANCE The location for our assault on excess vegetation is to be decided nearer the time when it will be known where our services can most effectively be utilized. Details in next newsletter or can ring Barbara Blatchford from October onwards.

SAT DEC 10 THE HURTWOOD HEDONIC KIKE. OS 186 & 187.

The annual dinner ramble of about 15 miles from Peaslake GR 086448 starting at 10 a.m. There will be stops for pub elevenses, pub lunch and tea-house tea and the walk will be followed by dinner at the Hurtwood Hotel in the evening. You can walk or dine or preferably both. The dinner menu will be chosen at the programme planning meeting on 20th September. Bookings will also be taken for dinner at that meeting. Leader of the walk Chris Stear and bookings for dinner to Tony Youngs.

TUES DEC 27 WINTER WINDSOR WANDER. OS 176. About 15

miles from Englefield Green Sports Club (opposite the RAF war memorial) GR 995718 to help get rid of those Christmas excesses. Walkers set off at 9 a.m. and runners at 10 a.m. The route is mainly in the lovely setting of Windsor Great Park. Just turn up on the day. There is a minimal entry fee to cover cost of route description and map. You can help replace some of the excesses lost in the convivial atmosphere of the sports club bar which will be open for lunch time drinks. Organiser is Ralph Henley.

MON JAN 2 SURREY INNS KANTER. OS 186 & 187. A light

hearted start to the new year. Venue at St Catherine's Village Hall, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford. GR 992485. Entrants are required to plot the route between unmanned checkpoints (identified by grid references) and answer a simple question based on a feature at the location. Most of the checkpoints are at pubs. Choice of two routes of 13 or 20 miles. Start anytime between 9.15 and 11 a.m. and all to finish by 4.30 p.m. After holding the cost of entry for many years, there has been a slight increase this year but at 50p for LDWA members and 60p for non members and other special rates for OAPs 75+ and under 16s this is still one of the cheapest LDWA events to enter. Entries on the day only but

further details (if you need them) can be obtained from Keith Chesterton.

SUN JAN 15 THIRTEENTH WINTER TANNERS OS 186 (poss) & 187. A 30 mile walk in central Surrey as a route proving exercise for the famous summer event. Start and finish in the municipal car park to the west of Leatherhead Town Centre (near railway station). GR 163566. No undercover at start/finish point and only minimal support so only tough walkers or runners should take part. Starts between 8 and 9.30 a.m. The time limit is 9 pm although it gets dark about 4.30 p.m. and those who finish after 8 p.m. will have to register themselves. Entry fees £1.00 for LDMA members, £1.50 non members and £2.00 all entries after 17th January including on the day. Details and entry form from John Westcott from August.

*PLEASE NOTE FINAL DETAILS AND ROUTE DESCRIPTION FOR THE WINTER TANNERS AND PUNCHBOWL MARATHON WILL BE SENT TO ALL THOSE WHO ENTER BEFORE 7th January and 21st January RESPECTIVELY. OTHER PRE ENTRIES WILL HAVE THE ROUTE DESCRIPTION AVAILABLE AT THE START. SO YOU GET THE ADVANTAGE OF STUDYING THE ROUTE IN ADVANCE AS WELL AS GETTING A CHEAPER ENTRY IF YOU ENTER EARLY.

SUN JAN 22 CROOKSBURY CIRCULAR. OS 186. A walk of about 22 miles starting from Crooksbury Hill Car Park. GR 878457. at 8.30 a.m. Lunchtime pub stop. Leader Colth Wood.

SUN JAN 28 TWENTY-FIRST PUNCHBOWL MARATHON OS 186. For LDMA members only. Another tough 30 or 40 mile event in western Surrey so again only tough runners and walkers should take part. Start and finish at Chichester Hall, Witley, GR 945394. Start anytime between 7.30 and 8.30 a.m. Time limit 12 hours. Only 3 checkpoints on the 30 miler. The 40 miler is made up of completing the 30 mile course first then (providing this has been done within a specified time limit) there is the opportunity to return to the 3rd checkpoint and

back to gain the 40 mile certificate. This arrangement has been made to put another 40 mile event on the calendar in view of organisers of 100 mile events generally insisting on a 40 mile qualifier. Entry fee is £2.50 before *21st January and £5.00 after including on the day. Details and entry form from John Westcott from August. Organiser Jeff Ellingham.

SAT/SUN APR 8/9 FIFTEENTH SURREY SUMMITS. OS 186 & 187. The group's main event of the year. A 100 kilometre (62 mile) challenge walk over the popular hills of central and western Surrey. Start and finish point is Chichester Hall, Witley, GR 948394. Start any time between 9.30 and 10 a.m. All to finish within 26 hours - whatever the start time. Closing date is 12th March although late entries may be accepted at the organisers discretion - depending on number of entries received. The route has again been altered which will take out Chinthurst Hill and put back Box Hill. Details and entry form from John Westcott from August.

HELP WANTED

I would remind members that we are always looking for helpers on our events. Those who enjoy taking part in the events should bear in mind that it does take a lot of voluntary labour to promote them and would ask you to forego taking part now and again in order to give assistance. Events in this programme, and the persons to contact are:

Tanners Marathon:	Liz Pamplin
Chiltern Marathon:	John Paryer
Guildford Boundary:	Barbara Blatchford
Surrey Inns Xanter:	Keith Ghetterton
Winter Tanners:	John Westcott

Punchbowl Marathon: Jeff Ellingham
Surrey Summits: Jeff Ellingham

In the last newsletter I appealed for a volunteer to help organise the 1989 Winter Tanners. To date nobody has come forward. I will not be in a position to do it on my own next year so it really is essential that somebody is prepared to commit themselves to giving a little of their time during the 2 or 3 weeks prior to the event as well as helping on the day if the event is to be organised efficiently. I would still take the entries and develop the route but I require help to arrange the marshals and refreshments. Anybody who is willing please let me know.

John Westcott

UNOFFICIAL SOCIAL WALKS

I am organising 5 unofficial social walks (these will not be advertised in Strider). Each walk will start at 9 a.m. and will be of 20 miles or slightly less. I will not necessarily have fully surveyed the route, so participants will have to be tolerant and possibly willing to assist in the map reading. The walks will be at a leisurely pace and will hopefully include a pub stop for lunch.

The main aims of these walks are to try and attract new members to the Surrey Group (I am organising mailshots to new LDWA members who live in the Surrey area), and encourage existing members to participate in social

walks. The walks are particularly aimed at people who may be:

New to long distance walking

Out of training and may need to ease their way back

Not usually able to attend social walks due to other commitments; it is hoped that at least one date may suit them

Obviously hardened veterans are welcome to come as well, as long as they are prepared to walk at a leisurely pace. The walks are:

Sunday Sept 4th from municiple car park at Amesbury (GR 154415), OS 184, walk will include good views of Stonehenge.

Saturday Sept 24th from car park adjacent school at Hosey Chert (GR 452532), OS 188 (OS 187 also required).

Sunday October 16th from municiple car park Fernhurst (GR 895285), OS197.

Sunday October 30th from car park at top of Boxhill (GR181513), OS187.

Saturday November 19th from car park at Newlands Corner (GR 043493), OS186 (OS 187 also required).

It is suggested that anybody wishing to come on any of these walks should ring me in advance to confirm details. I will try and arrange transport for anybody who needs it (But please give at least one weeks notice).

Peter Hughes