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This Newsletter was edited by Peter Hughes. Some of the views expressed may be his own and not representative of the group as a whole. Apologies in advance for anything that offends (unintentional) or any errors. Layout niceties have been sacrificed to save space and keep costs down. Criticism, new ideas welcome; feedback will allow me to produce what you want.

ACCOUNTS 1988

The 1988 accounts (see page 2) compare unfavourably to those of 1987, because the October 1987 hurricane meant that significant path clearance work was needed so that the 1988 Punchbowl and Surrey Summits could be staged. This was costly. The donations to NT and Hurwood were also to aid such work.

1989 has started well with increased profits from the Winter Tanners and Surrey Inns Kanter. Nevertheless we must not be complacent. It is important that existing members renew their subscriptions as soon as possible (note \$1 this year), and we must try and get the membership back to 1987 levels.

1989 SUBSCRIPTION

Membership renewal/application

I enclose \$1 for my 1989 subscription to the Surrey Group

Name

LDWA Number

Address

Detach and send to Liz Higgins. Cheques payable to 'LDWA Surrey Group'.

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1988

INCOME	1988	1987
	£	£
Balance brought forward	453.63	428.29
Members subscriptions and donations*	50.01	62.54
Donations for use of equipment		20.50
Events:		
Surrey Inns Kanter	26.57	
Winter Tanners	70.55	
Womersley Kanter	0.01	
Weybac	5.80	
Surrey Summits	147.95	
Guildford Boundary Walk	19.32**	
Punchbowl Marathon	(222.79)	
Total	47.41	499.73
	<u>559.05</u>	<u>1031.04</u>

* Membership 1988 - 101, 1987 - 143

** Profit of £10.00 donated to Hartwood Control

EXPENDITURE

Hire of Halls	30.00	35.00
Secretary's expenses	325.43	131.49
Treasurer's expenses	3.50	5.70
Donations:		
National Trust	150.00	
Hartwood Control	93.00	
	243.00	120.00
Flowers P Young funeral	18.70	
Badges:		
Surrey Group	(1.00)	
Surrey Summits	(44.80)	
	(45.80)	173.30
Christmas Dinner		20.00
Equipment purchases		91.94
Total	575.03	577.43
Balance of income over expenditure	(15.98)	453.43
	<u>559.05</u>	<u>1031.04</u>

Balance of bank account 66.52
Less profit GSW 1987 not paid (82.50)

15.98
Badges and t-shirts in stocks: T-shirts 2 x £2 4.00
 Surrey Group 105 x £1 105.00
 Surrey Summits 212 x £1 212.00

AGM AND PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING 17th January 1989

23 members attended the meeting at the Star Hotel, Woking. Liz Higgins sent apologies for her absence. It was therefore decided that we could not discuss the 1988 accounts, but these should be printed in the Newsletter.

The chairman and treasurer were re-elected unopposed. John Westcott announced that after 10 years he wished to stand down as secretary, but was still willing to be involved in the organisation of our challenge walks. Peter Hughes had indicated that he was willing to take over the secretary's job, if it excluded challenge walk organisation. It was agreed that Peter should be elected as secretary, but that some of the secretary's current duties connected with challenge walks should be taken over by an events secretary. John was elected to this new position, having been thanked for his past outstanding service.

The group's next programme was discussed in detail. The outcome is reflected in the programme presented elsewhere in this newsletter.

One interesting item appeared under "any other business". John Westcott had sent a courtesy letter to the National Trust indicating that the Winter Tanners was going across some of their land (virtually all on public rights of way, the rest on open access land). They replied confirming that this was acceptable, but that they looked forward to receiving a cheque to cover the cost which would be 15p per person. The meeting regarded this as extremely cheeky and was opposed to the idea of imposing a compulsory levy on challenge walk entrants. A voluntary donation is accepted from entrants to the Winter Tanners, Punchbowl, and Surrey Summits. This is split between the NT and Hortwood Control with two thirds going to the NT (last year this amounted to £128, more than 15p per head). Other points were:

- Many of our members are fully paid up members of the NT
- we do path clearance work on NT property
- we are using rights of way or open access land.

We intend to carry on as before, the NT are not able to enforce their claim.

The secretary undertook to investigate possible venues for future meetings.

SOME PAST WALKS AND EVENTS

MAHARAJAHS ROUNDABOUT (report by Tom Anderson)

It was an uninspiring opening to the day on Lough Down west of Strealy, the 11 participants having driven there in heavy rain. After a few pleasantries we moved off in steady drizzle. To everyone's surprise this soon ceased and left us with a dry walk for the rest of the day.

The first section took us along the Ridgeway Path to Lowbury Hill passing the reputed site of the Battle of Ashdown (Alfred The Great) between Saxons and Danes. Great views were enjoyed here and after five minutes of the chairman's garrulity the party descended from the high downs to the river Thames, for a saunter along the tow path to Wallingford and our lunch stop!

It was here, that great fan of real ale Tony Youngs formed a splinter group to search for the real thing (very successfully he said).

However the culturally minded of the party enjoyed their lunch at Wallingford Castle enjoying the vista from the Castle Keep.
They were finally located by the real ale fans whose only reason for leaving the hostelry early was to return one member to her husband!
After being severely admonished by their chairman the splinter group were allowed back into the fold to continue the walk. The group debouched along the north side of the Thames to join the Ridgeway path at Grim's Ditch an immense earthwork constructed in prehistoric times its purpose unknown. This provided much discussion during the long climb along it.
At last we reached the famous Maharajahs Well in Stoke Row, what a fascinating thing to find in the Chilternas, and all paid for by the Maharajah of Benares in 1864. It was here that the aforementioned Tony Youngs redeemed himself in the eyes of his chairman by purchasing a copy of the History of the Well. This is a must for all antiquarians!
After a short cultural break here we continued our walk through woodland and meadow to recross the river at Soring and onto Streatley. The leader then overheard a solo voice remark about the length of the walk on the final pull to the car park, he hopes that this was mitigated by the refreshments provided by his wife Anne to rejuvenate all who took part.
Many thanks to all who came especially our President whose presence had a steadring influence on the more excitable members on our walk.
Solutions to the most asked questions on the walk are:
1. It was a roundabout way to visit a well
2. For interested parties distance was 28 map miles plus height gain! nearly 30!

WEEKEND AT BRISHAM (details provided by Mervyn Harvey)

The usual small crowd attended this weekend staying at the Torbay Heights hotel which is run by former Surrey Group members Ron and Carole Walters. A very enjoyable day was spent on the Saturday on Dartmoor despite the mist. Ron led the group to a lovely remote Pub for lunch; the length of the menu was quite remarkable. Very thick mist in the afternoon caused navigational problems and it was with some luck that a known reservoir was found and from there the path back to the cars. On Sunday the group headed north out of Brisham for a circular tour of the valleys before returning to the coast at Smugglers Cove. Then back along the coast to Brisham for lunch.
It is doubtful whether this weekend can ever be repeated. A marina is being built which ruins the hotel's views out to the sea. Ron and Carole's business has suffered and they are likely to be moving out.

WORPLESDON COMMON PATH CLEARANCE (details provided by Barbara Blatchford)

5 brave volunteers put in herculeanean efforts in absolutely foul weather conditions. 4 waymarking posts and a stile were erected (they first of all had to be carried from where they had been dumped). Some vegetation clearance was also done. Barbara thanks the volunteers and hopes we get a few more next time.

UNOFFICIAL SOCIAL WALKS (report by Peter Hughes)

This series of 5 walks, prefaced by a mailshot to 30 new LDWA members, was aimed at new and existing members. All the walks were between 16 and 20 miles in length and were at a leisurely pace. Attendances were 5, 3, 8, 9 and 8 with at least 5 new faces mixing with some regulars. I think there is a demand for shorter, more leisurely walks and I hope to put some more in future programmes.

HURTWOOD HEDONIC HIKE & ANNUAL DINNER (report by Tony Youngs)

Chris Steer was needed at the national LDWA Committee meeting at Bristol so 18 intrepid gastronoms followed me up Holsbury Hill from Peaslake in the pale sunshine. We found our way to the King's Head for elevenses, by Leith Hill, Broadmoor and Friday Street to Abinger Hatch for lunch, by Paddington Farm and Blatchford Down to Shere for tea and back by torchlight to the Hurtwood Inn.

29 people (including our lost leader returned from the west) sat down to dinner. My memories of the evening are hazy; I can recall the excellent dinner, our chairman waving a bayonet for a reason that now escapes me and urging us to think hard about the erosion that our obsessive walking causes, and Barbara Blatchford directing cheerful praise at those who run the Group and our events. But then all disappears in a Scotch (single malt) mist.

15th SURREY INNS WINTER (report by Keith Chesterton)

185 people took part, well up on 1988, perhaps because the Jan 2nd date gave people a chance to get over hangovers? 112 completed the 13 miles, 67 the 19 miles, and 4 failed to return to the finish. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves apart from a number of complaints about lack of mud. I'm sorry about that but the dry weather was against me - I hope to do better next year! As expected, some had trouble in Guildford centre. Racks Close was the area where wool was dried on racks. The bridge over the railway along Blackheath Lane was hard to find for those without 1:25000 maps too. Some found other difficulties with one couple crossing the bridge over the Wey at the start, instead of going on the towpath to Guildford!

Congratulations to all who completed, especially to the Toft and Hunt families who each got 5 home, and also to G. Atkinson, who turned up at 12.10 and asked if he could do it having been inspired by seeing so many on the downs from his house! My thanks go to those who helped me on the event - Jill, who did a morning stint, Chris and Margaret Steer, who came in on their way home from a holiday, Brian Maigh who finished early to help on checking in, Janet Chapman who came in after her nightshift to help, John Westcott who checked out part of the route and also worked all day and especially to his mother, who at 3 days before her 80th birthday, spent 3 hours in the kitchen doing most of the washing up. Can we have some other volunteers next time!

A welcome to members of Making RA there for the 1st time, but, unhappily a farewell from 'Mac' McCawley of the Green Belt Walkers who has decided to give up after doing all of the Winters except the very 1st as he doesn't think he can rely on getting round on time. Keep walking, Mac.

WINTERS TANNERS

A full report written by John Westcott has already been sent to all participants. So only some brief details here. Entries 226, starters 213, finishers 191. A mild, cloudy but dry day. The scenic route was once again devised by Barbara Blatchford and consisted of a combination of familiar paths and two or three new paths. It turned out to be quite a tough route, due to plenty of mud and cruel quirks such as having to climb the North Downs slope twice! Times ranged from 4 hours 52 minutes to 11 hours 17 minutes. As agreed at a previous Surrey Group meeting, food was not supplied at checkpoints this year.

CROOKSBURY CIRCULAR (report by Colin Wood)

We could not have had a better January day as 17 of us set off on the Crooksbury Circular walk of some 22 miles. It was really good to see some new faces and lets hope we see them as well as the more familiar ones again. The sun shone most of the day and the views were quite magnificent. The mud was fairly plentiful. It wouldn't be the same without it. We stopped at the Merry Harriers at Hambledon for lunch this being about the half way point and how pleasant it was especially the barmaid in her mini skirt. I resisted passing a comment just in case I got a slap round the face.

Sue my nearest and dearest volunteered to bring some soup out to finish off the day. She promised to leave it in the car boot, but it was not there, so I assumed she had not arrived. Of course, by the time I thought about looking on the front seat most people had gone. I hope those left enjoyed it.

This was my first walk as leader and I thoroughly enjoyed it and the company I was with. I look forward to doing my next one.

SOME PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Decisions on whether these go ahead will be taken at the May 31 planning meeting. However, please indicate your interest as soon as possible.

LONG WEEKEND IN THE LAKE DISTRICT

Tom Anderson proposes a group 4 days Friday Sept 22nd to Monday Sept 26th based in the 3M Lakes. Accommodation will be in a mountain hut (up to 12 people accepted). Contact Tom to discuss.

WEEKEND IN ABERGAVENNY

Dan Hadfield, our previous chairman now in self imposed exile in South Wales, proposes the group has a weekend based in Abergavenny. He would lead a walk on the Saturday and a shorter walk on the Sunday. We would stay in a Guest House in Abergavenny on the Friday and Saturday nights. Dates are October 13th to 15th. Contact Peter Hughes to discuss.

THOUGHTS OF SECRETARY PETER

The idea of this section is to provoke thought and generate ideas. These ideas can be explored and developed at programme planning meetings. Please discuss your reactions when we meet (I attend most social walks), or give me a ring.

SOCIAL WALKS

We need more, a group of our size (108+) should be able to support nearer 2 a month (its 1 at the moment). Social walks are essential if we wish to attract new members. They allow new members to gently adjust to the demands of long distance walking, and learn from more experienced practitioners. They are also beneficial to experienced members: as a means of maintaining fitness, maintaining contact with old friends, making new ones, seeing new parts of the countryside etc.

We need a variety of walks, the 18-20 mile category for newcomers but also some more strenuous walks as well. We need to vary the locations, its nice to escape from Surrey occasionally. However some people do appear reluctant to travel. Would car sharing arrangements help? Should we have more walks on Saturdays? Should we have more A to B walks? More group weekends? The odd overnight walk? I would like to hear from members willing to lead a walk, or who can supply me with a good idea for a walk (give me a start point and some suggested places to go and I will do the rest!).

CHALLENGE WALKS

Are we undertaking the organisation of too many? This subject was first raised by our chairman at the christmas dinner. This year the group is organising/has organised the Surrey Inns Kanter, Winter Tanners, Punchbowl Marathon, Surrey Summits, South Surrey Kanter, Basbac Walk, Guildford Boundary Walk and provides helpers for the Tanners. We are very reliant on a small core of volunteer helpers - some of whom deserve a rest or wish to participate themselves for a change. Three solutions seem possible: we drop some events altogether, we hold certain walks biennially, we somehow find more helpers.

Whatever we decide, we must reorganise January. 3 events in one month may be great for the walkers but is asking too much of our helpers.

SOCIAL EVENINGS

Is there a demand for more frequent social evenings, more slide shows etc? The current programme planning meetings are not very successful as social events, the business part of the meeting tends to go on too long! Costs must always be borne in mind (eg. room at Star Hotel costs £10), therefore any new social evenings would preferably have to be held informally eg. meet in a pub bar rather than a hired room. What is the best location, our members are widely distributed?

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

JOHN WESTCOTT

John stood down as secretary of the Group at the AGM. I am sure that you would all like to join me in thanking John for his fantastic efforts for the Group over the last 10 years. It is a relief that he is still available to us as Events Secretary. His is a very tough act to follow, but he has already given me much advice and encouragement, for which I am indebted.

BRECON BEACONS 100 (Spring Bank holiday weekend)

The group is manning a checkpoint (at about 72 miles). Contact John Westcott if you would like to help.

EVENT ACCOUNTS

Please could Event Organisers ease the treasurer's lot, by submitting their accounts no later than 4 weeks after their event.

SURREY GROUP BADGES

Why not adorn your rucksack or jacket with one of these? They can be obtained from Liz Higgins for the bargain price of £1 each + postage.

PROGRAMME MARCH TO SEPTEMBER 1989

The organiser/leader of each walk/event is given in the heading line. Telephone numbers and addresses are on the first page of this Newsletter. Please enclose SAE with all written enquiries.

SAT MAR 18 WOLDINGHAM WANDER. OS 187

BARBARA SLATCHFORD

An easy going 18 mile plus scenic downland walk. The route will not be fully surveyed in advance so be prepared for another voyage of discovery. Pub stop for lunch. Meet 9am. at car park on south side of the Botley Hill to South Hawke Road at GR 284546.

SAT/SUN APR 8/9 SURREY SUMMITS OS 184 & 187

JOHN WESTCOTT

A 100 kilometre challenge walk over the popular hills of central and western Surrey. Closing date is 12th March although late entries may be accepted at the organisers discretion.

SUN APR 16 AMBERLEY AMBLE. OS 197

TONY YOUNGS

21 miles beside the Arun, over the Downs and through two parks, passing three castles, one stately home and a mill - but not the George and Dragon at Burgham, now a free house. Illustrated route sheet available by the end of March. Start from Amberley Station GR 026118 at 9.30am.

SUN APR 23 HELP IMPROVE THE GREENSAND WAY. OS 187 TONY YOUNGS

Path clearance working party. Start 9.30am. Meet north side of the A2046 at Earlswood Common lake car park GR 269403, but be prepared for some local travelling. Some tools will be provided but please bring spades and bow saws if you have them.

THU MAY 11 PLANNING MEETING/SOCIAL EVENING. OS 186 PETER HUGHES

At Star Hotel, Hook Heath, Woking GR 994576. 7.30pm for 8. Note, the date is different from that proposed at AGM. I will have a proposed programme so that the "business" can be kept to a minimum.

SUN MAY 14 SOUTH SURREY KANTER. OS 186 & 187 JOHN WESTCOTT

A 20 mile score Kanter in 8 hours for those walkers who like to exercise their brain as well as muscle - score maximum points by visiting as many checkpoints as possible identified by grid references and given in random order. Also 10 & 15 mile standard Kanters for families/beginners where entrants choose their route between checkpoints identified by grid references given in sequential order. Entry on the day only. LOMA members 50p, non members 40p. Start Dunsfold village hall (opposite pub) GR 907369, between 9 and 11am. All to finish by 5.30pm.

SUN MAY 21 DORKING DALLIANCE. OS 187. RICHARD IRESON

About 20 miles from Dorking Town station GR 140499. Start 8.45am.

SUN JUN 11 WANDERING AROUND WOVING. OS 186. HERVYN HARVEY

Over 20 miles from Jolly Farmer, near Worplesdon GR 988543. Start 8.30am.

WED JUN 21 MIDSUMMER EVENING WALK. OS 186. BARBARA BLATCHFORD

6-8 miles from 11 Thornbank Guildford GR 983493. Start 7pm. Ring Barbara if you are coming.

SUN JUN 25 THE BASSAC WALK. JOHN WESTCOTT

2 challenge walks, 15 or 20 miles, using Basingstoke canal. Details not finalised but likely start point is BAE Sports Ground at Eyelevel GR 057615.

SUN JUL 2 TANNERS MARATHON. OS 187. ALAN VIRGO

Challenge Events not advertised in Strider because of the 500 rule. 10, 30, or 50 miles from the Leatherhead Football Club GR 163560.

SUN JUL 23 HASLEMERE CIRCULAR. OS 186. PETER HUGHES

Start 9am. from car park Devil's Punch Bowl GR 891358. This will be based on the Haslemere Circular Walk devised by Elizabeth Pamplin - described as "20 miles through some of the best bits of West Surrey".

SUN AUG 20 TURVILLE TRAVERSE. OS 175. TOM ANDERSON

A carefully sculptured route of 24 hilly miles through the loveliest part of the Chilterns, with no monuments, no history lessons, and no wells. Now wait for it, a choice of three pubs for the lunch time stop!! Start 9am. at Hambleden GR 788854, this is car park well outside village and it has toilets.

SUN SEP 17 GUILDFORD BOUNDARY WALK. OS 186. JOHN WESTCOTT

Expected to be the usual 21 mile challenge event. Full details next time.