



# LDWA Surrey Group NEWSLETTER



February 1992

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## The Passing of the President

Chris Steer (LDWA Number 1) died peacefully in Farnham Hospital on Wednesday 5 February 1992 after the distressing illness that descended upon him so suddenly two years ago.

We shall remember with gratitude and deep affection that friendly, gentle, man with the long, easy stride who, by his part in founding the LDWA, his 15 years of producing Strider and his sheer enthusiasm for walking, brought so much enjoyment into our lives.

## A note from your Chairman

It is with great sadness that we received the news of the death of Chris Steer. I'm sure as your Chairman you would wish me to extend our support and condolences to Margaret and her family. We all have our own memories of Chris, of his support, his encouragement and the inspiration he gave to so many of us. That the LDWA continues to thrive is perhaps the greatest living tribute to his memory and as we plan our programmes for the future we shall, I am sure, carry the ideals of Chris with us.

Last year was a full one, with respect to both Challenge and Social walks. Our 3 major challenge events, The Winter Tanners, The Punchbowl Marathon and The Surrey Summits were all well supported and I would like to thank all those who played any part, however small, in the organisation or marshalling which, collectively, made those events so successful. Particular

thanks however must go to Jeff Ellingham for the very great effort he puts in our behalf with both the Punchbowl and the Summits. Thanks Jeff.

— Continued —

Our social walk calendar was equally full with 9 walks during the year - one of which took us from Washington to Quebec without the need for a passport! Two fun events - the Dunsfold and Surrey Inns Kanters and, if my memory serves me correctly, one path clearance day. Thanks to all social walk leaders and Kanter organisers and helpers. The final event of the year (apart from the AGM) was the Xmas walk and dinner. Thanks to Louise Cartwright for arranging this. It was a great day and hopefully we can swell the numbers for Xmas '92. (see elsewhere in this issue).

This year, by overwhelmingly popular request, we elected Margaret Steer to Honorary Life Member. There can be few events that Margaret has not suffered wind, cold, rain and (sometimes) sun to support not just Surrey events but many LDWA events. On behalf of us all Margaret, many thanks.

This last AGM saw some changes to the committee. Liz Higgins stood down as treasurer, with Peter Groundsell taking her place. Although the formal changeover took place at the AGM, Liz will be staying on until after the Summits whilst Peter is away in the high country of the Himalayas. Thanks to you both.

Your local group is what the members make it. What we are able to do depends upon who can offer to give a little of their time to help. This is true for our walks programme and for 'administering' the group itself. For this reason I am extremely pleased to tell

you that Reg Chapman has offered to help with the production of the newsletter (if all has gone according to plan, you should be reading Reg's first efforts!!) and to Brian Haigh for offering to act as membership secretary. Many hands make light work and again, on behalf of us all, thanks to Reg and Brian.

We are always pleased to welcome new members to the group and if as you read this, a neighbour, colleague or friend springs to mind that you think might like to walk with us then please do invite them along to one of our social walks - the list appears elsewhere in this issue. We are very happy for them to come along - no commitment - if they like what we do then perhaps membership might follow.

This coming year will see a mixture of old favourites together with some new ideas - a night walk, an afternoon walk with skittles evening, a brand new route for the Summits, Tee shirts and sweatshirts with the (relatively) new Surrey Summits' logo. Something for everyone we hope.

One of the problems with saying thanks is making omissions. There is bound to be someone I have forgotten to mention. In anticipation, I apologise - it really was unintentional.

I hope to see you all somewhere on a footpath sometime!

Meanwhile, good walking for '92. Tony Cartwright, Chairman

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#### **LDWA PUBLICITY MATERIAL ....**

is available from Janet Chapman (63 Yockley Close, The Maultway, Camberley, Surrey GU15 1QQ) so please contact her if you wish to display or distribute it.

## Membership

As many of you are aware there has been a significant drop in the membership of our group over the last year. Much discussion for the reasons for this decline has resulted and much thought has been given to ways in which it might be reversed.

We have already taken two positive steps in this direction. Firstly to seek help for our secretary with the newsletter, with Reg Chapman offering his services here. Secondly by providing continuity of contact through a Membership Secretary (traditionally this tended to be covered by the treasurer). Brian Haigh has taken over this role. We hope that the increased effort that we, as a group, can put into presenting ourselves and our activities at a local level coupled with revitalised efforts on membership renewal will help both retain existing members and attract new ones.

However, I believe there are other ways in which we might attract more local members. Currently we restrict membership to those

who already belong to the National Group. Should we perhaps consider opening membership to anyone? (It might be argued that National Group membership might more naturally follow from local group membership). I believe we should at least discuss this possibility at our next group meeting. If in the meantime anyone has any comments on this please feel free to write to me. Just a point to deliberate on: marathons for the masses would never have developed if Alan Blatchford had not questioned the rules of the AAA's back in the 1970's. Unlike us, he couldn't change the rules - but what he did was to recognise and respond to a changing need.

Tony Cartwright

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### Group Officers

Chairman.	<b>Tony Cartwright,</b> 12 East Meads, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5SP Tel 0483 503768
Secretary.	<b>Richard Hotchkiss,</b> 1 Maplehurst, Ashwood Park, Fetcham, Surrey, KT22 9NT Tel 0372 459026
Treasurer.	<b>Liz Higgins,</b> 12 Chatfield Drive, Merrow Park, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 7XP Tel 0483 504346
Membership Secretary	<b>Brian Haigh,</b> 17 Lower Edgeborough Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 2DX. Tel 0483 303020

## Programme

### **Sun 16 Feb. Richards Romp.**

08.45. 20 miles from Farnham Castle car park, GR838474. OS186. Richard Ireson, The Laurels, 54 Church Road, Crowthorne, Berks, RG11 7LX, Tel 0344 777444.

### **Sat 29 Feb Munroe Marathon.**

*Note date, incorrect in Strider*

Evening slide show and talk by Tom Anderson who has completed all the Munroes. 7.30 pm. Methodist Church Hall, Victoria St, Egham, Surrey. Light refreshments. There will be a small charge. Tom Anderson Carn Dearg, 8 Laurel Av, Engelfield Green, Egham, Surrey, TN20 0QE Tel 0784 432507. TOM HAS OFFERED A REPEAT TALK IN THE AUTUMN IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT INTEREST. (I already have 7 people interested but unable to attend because of the Surrey Summits marshalls walk so I think we can rely on the Autumn event - Richard)

### **Sat 29 Feb Surrey Summits 100km Marshalls Walk.**

**Sun 1 March**

Phone Jeff Ellingham on 0428 683374.

### **Sun 22 Mar Cartwright's Crawl.**

08.45. 20 miles from Haselmere Station (GR898331), OS186. Tony Cartwright (0483 503768)

### **Sat 4 April Surrey Summits.**

**Sun 5 April**

Offers of help please to Jeff Ellingham on 0428 683374 or "Farthings", Wheeler Lane, Witley, Godalming, Surrey, GU8 5QU. Entry forms from Dave Challenger, 44 Agates Lane, Ashted, Surrey, KT21 2ND. Please enclose sae.

### **Sun 26 Apr Ditchling Diversion.**

22 miles on Roman Roads, field paths, a tow-path, the oldest railway in Sussex and downland tracks. Start 9am from the free car park behind Ditchling Village Hall (off Lewes Road, B2116; TQ327151). Illustrated route sheet in advance from Tony Youngs in April (please send sae) or on the day. OS198 or Pathfinder series 1288 + 1289. Tony Youngs 17 Linkfield Lane, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 1JF Tel 0737 778615. (Tony has included Pathfinder numbers because he has been bullying the OS to do something about their lack of marketing for Pathfinder maps which they complain make a large loss. I remember Wilf Lynham pushing the OS to produce a 25,000 tourist

edition of the Surrey Hills about 15 years ago so Tony is not alone in identifying the need).

**Sun 10 May Colin's Circuit.**

8.00 start. A very pleasant 36 miles from Colin's home along Basingstoke Canal, River Wey and North Downs Way. It is best to take food and drink. There is a pub after about 18 miles but nothing after until Guildford at 28 miles. Start from 1 Colne Way, Ash, Aldershot. OS186. GR 893503. (Only the latest OS map shows the road). Leader, Colin Wood (0252-25770) This is a longer than average walk but the terrain is mostly flat, the only significant hill being as leaving Guildford after 28 miles.

**Thu 14 May. Programme Planning Meeting.**

Prince of Wales, Shere (GR072476) OS186. 7.30pm for 8. Suggestions for walks or other events welcome at the meeting or, even better, in advance to secretary.

**Fri 19 June. The Empty Coffin Walk.**

Night walk starts 11pm from Juggs Arms, Kingston near Lewes, TQ 393083 (OS 198 & 199). Walk via Downs to Southsease, SDW to Alfriston, Cuckmere, Seven Sisters and Beechy Head to Eastbourne for breakfast at about 7am. 26 miles. Bring own food and drinks - none on the way! Suggest train/drive to Lewes, walk to Kingston and train return Eastbourne to Lewes. Leader - Keith Chesterton Guildford (0483) 63392. (The last time Keith lead this night walk, an empty coffin, lid ajar, was passed just as the moon went behind the clouds! see Strider 21 p27) P.S. Part of this walk will be on the Downsman 100 in 1997, so it will be a useful walkout! PPS Please try to let Keith know if you are coming.

**Wed 24 June Midsummer Evening Walk.**

6 to 8 miles from 11 Thornbank, Guildford (GR963493) OS186. Start 7pm. Leader, Barbara Blatchford (0463 60085). Tea afterwards. Please phone Barbara a couple of days before if you are coming.

**Sun 19 July Roundabout Rudgewick**

21 miles. 9am from car park off Cranleigh High Street, GR 056391. OSmap187. Pub stop. Leader Mervyn Harvey, Tel 0483 34184.

**Sat 19 Sept Skittles.**

Organiser, Louise Cartwright

## 18th Surrey Inns Kanter - 1st Jan 1992

Report by Keith Chesterton.

This is the 16th time I've run this event from this venue and each year recently before I've set the routes, I've thought I won't be able to find a new one, but each year I've managed it and found 1 or 2 paths I didn't know myself. This year the Windmill and 4 Elms appeared for the first time together with paths below Pitch Hill, tho' I think all the paths on the 12.5 mile course had been used before. People liked the area and the paths, and the excellent weather got almost everyone back early. I had some complaints about the lack of mud and I promise to do better in future!

The clues were easy, but again demonstrated that people on the event will always find something the organiser had missed - in this case, a 2nd gate by the gas tank with a different number of bars. I had hoped some knowledgeable person would tell me the name of the "Guildford in Bloom" flower, but there were no definitive replies. I had buttercup, pansy, poppy, primrose, yellow rose, daffodil and dog rose. No gardeners go walking!

132 people took part this year with 98 finishing the 12.5 mile route and 33 the 19.5 miler. Ian Ditchfield was first back on the shorter route, but was just beaten on time by the second finisher, William Brown. Mark Pickard was well ahead of everyone else on the longer course, but complained that he had lost time in finding some of the clues! Other entrants enjoyed themselves in different ways, sampling some of the pubs "hospitality", though I am told that not all were to be recommended in that department. 6 people arrived after I had locked up and was taking my gear home, so I reopened to give them their certificates - no drinks I'm afraid as I'd thrown the last away.

The double booking for the hall with the St Catherines residents association coffee morning provided some extra excitement for the organiser, but was resolved with their serving coffee to a few entrants.

**I DO NEED A VERY FEW VOLUNTEERS TO HELP ON THE DAY. IT CAN BE EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THE WALK BUT WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS, I SHALL BE FORCED TO STOP ORGANISING THIS. I FIND IT EMBARRASSING TO ASK THE SAME PEOPLE EVERY YEAR. PLEASE, IF YOU ENJOY THE EVENT, VOLUNTEER TO HELP ONE YEAR!**

Lost property - Bumbag and glove.

### **SWEAT-SHIRTS AND Tee-SHIRTS.**

Surrey Summits sweat shirts (navy with gold logo) and Tee-shirts (gold with navy logo) are on sale to all. Sizes small, medium, large or extra large. Orders to Dave Challenger, 44 Agates Lane, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2ND (Tel 0372-277138) by 14 March if you want to collect at the Surrey Summits Event. Price if you use this route to collect is £5 for Tee-shirt, £10 for Sweat-shirt. Cheques with order please and made out to "LDWA Surrey Group". We hope to make other arrangements to sell to those unable to collect at the Summits but the cost will be greater.

## Annual General Meeting - 16 Jan 1992.

Apologies for absence were received from Chris and Margaret Steer, Barbara Blatchford and John Westcott.

The Chairman reported a fall in ordinary membership from 110 in 1990 to 70. Margaret Steer had been elected the third life member of the Group. He thanked all walk, challenge event, social event, path clearance and other activity organisers and participants with particular thanks to Jeff Ellingham for the major contributions to the Surrey Summits and Punchbowl events.

The Secretary referred to Newsletters as his summary of the year.

The Treasurer distributed a summary of the accounts and reported a surplus of income over expenditure for the year of £445.62 giving a balance of £1484.61. The profit from the events was £461.15. Some printing bills were outstanding but these would be under £100. The balance was discussed and the retiring and new treasurers were asked to consider if a large donation or donations should be made from the balance. The President's fund which has been used for camping barns was suggested as a worthy and relevant cause. Comments on this or an alternative donation would be welcomed by the committee.

The Chairman was re-elected unanimously. Liz Higgins wished to retire as Treasurer and was thanked for 4 years of carrying out this task so efficiently. Peter Groundsell was unanimously elected as the new Treasurer and will take over from Liz late Spring after he returns from holiday. The Secretary was re-elected after agreeing to stand in the absence of another volunteer. I pointed out that I was not able to do the job very well due to other commitments and spending a large amount of time working away. A move away from Surrey is also likely in a year or so. Reg Chapman offered his skills to produce the newsletter from the Secretary's drafts - an offer gratefully accepted. (But please continue to send newsletter material to the Secretary for assembly into the draft newsletter and submission to Strider).

Brian Haigh offered to handle membership records, renewals and associated tasks, another generous offer gratefully accepted.

Group Tee-shirts and sweat-shirts were discussed. It was agreed to make Surrey Summits clothing more widely available - see separate item in newsletter to order.

Janet Chapman reported on Surrey's contribution to the Invicta Hundred. (See separate item in newsletter)

The 1992 Xmas Dinner was discussed. Louise agreed to organise with the preferred arrangements being a dinner dance after a walk on 12 Dec. Expected price about £18 and expected location, Forest Green. Walk to start about 9.30. Friends and members of other local groups will be welcome.

The draft constitution accepted at the previous AGM was accepted.

## THE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL - Saturday 14th December 1991

As we drove through Guildford on our way to the rendezvous at Peaslake, the enveloping fog suddenly lifted and a bright, crisp day greeted us. It seemed like an omen and the rest of the day lived up to its bright beginnings. The photo call (courtesy of Janet Chapman) for 'silly hats' enabled the assembled motley crew to exchange Christmas greetings before we set off towards Holmbury, and then past High Ashes Farm before descending via Leith Hill Wood to our coffee stop at Forest Green. There we toasted the arrival four hours earlier of baby Rowan Chesterton (perhaps he'll celebrate his birthday with us one year?).

A fairly short stroll through the fields near Mayes Green and Walliswood brought us to the nearby church. It appears to be in the 'middle of nowhere'; its woodland setting makes it a surprise to walkers unfamiliar with the area and we paused a while to look inside. The midday sun was quite warm; almost all of the silly hats had been stowed away in rucksacks in readiness for the serious part of the day - the lunch. The landlord of 'The Punchbowl' at Oakwoodhill made us especially welcome; we 'tookover' one of the bars and sampled the various brews. The threat of a longer route back was insufficient to hurry the group, but eventually we set off in an easterly direction to cross the A 29. A few of the more sober members queried why we were heading away from the setting sun! They looked relieved as the route turned towards the North and later the distant views of Leith Hill across Jayes Park reminded us that we still had to climb the scarp. It was dark as we walked up the road and across the fields past The Duke of Kent School and on to Peaslake where the lights of the large Christmas tree twinkled their welcome.

The Hurtwood Inn provided tea and changing facilities, and soon we were heading to our dinner at 'The White Horse' in Dorking. Not all of the walkers were able to stay on for the dinner and it was good to see other friends waiting in the bar to join us. We were

disappointed that there were only 18 of us in total but the company was good and everyone enjoyed their meal. The presentation of Surrey Group Life Membership to Margaret Steer made it a happy and memorable occasion. We all agreed that we had had a good day and we hope that this year we can encourage more people to join us, particularly for the dinner in the evening.

**The 1992 Christmas Social is Saturday 12th December.** (Put it in your diaries) **Invite friends and family to join us.** (Non-members are welcome to join us for any part of the day and / or evening - we do talk about things, other than long walks). **We are planning a different venue and we are considering making it a dinner-dance.** I will try to negotiate a price around £18 per person. Group members who were present at our AGM will recall the suggestion that we invite members from other groups to join in our festivities - it would be lovely if we could fill a function room. **I shall be asking for provisional numbers early in the Autumn;** menus and final prices will be available later. Please let me have your recommendations re suitable venues (remember we need changing facilities) and any other comments - **it is your social occasion and I would like to effect a change which pleases everyone!!**

————— That's it for this issue !!! —————