



LDWA Surrey Group NEWSLETTER

October 1994



Group Officers

Chairman.	Keith Chesterton, Fife, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5HD Tel: 0483 63392
Secretary.	Brian Haigh, 17 Lower Edgeborough Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 2DX. Tel: 0483 30000
Treasurer.	Sue Boyman, 64 Surrey Grove, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 3PN Tel: 081 715 3179
Membership Secretary	Beg Chapman, 63 Yockley Close, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1QQ Tel: 0276 65169

Oops !!!

Apologies to Ann Sayer and all who phoned her, the real number is 081 937 9495. What you may have heard on the other number WAS a fax machine, whatever you may have thought.

1997 HUNDRED - THE DOWNSMAN

The National Committee of the LDWA has given us responsibility for organising the 1997 Hundred. As this will be the 25th Hundred we have decided to follow the route of the first Hundred from Winchester to Eastbourne mostly along the South Downs Way. (This route was also used in 1986). An organising Committee has been established under the Chairmanship of Reg Chapman and will have its next meeting on 1st November. Contact has been made with the Sussex and Wessex Groups because the route will be partly in their patches.

1997 may seem a long way ahead but there is a lot to do and time will pass quickly. Help will be needed so it is hoped that any one able to assist in whatever manner will not hesitate to come forward.

Janet Chapman has been appointed by the National Committee to act as liaison.

Shropshire 100

The Surrey Group has not been allocated a checkpoint on the Shropshire 100 next year, but may be required to perform a flying squad function, to help out at any checkpoint that is in difficulty.

If anyone is interested in helping in this role, contact Janet Chapman (0276 65169) for any further information.

Membership of LDWA

We have recently been reminded that all members of local Groups, such as the Surrey Group, need to be full members of LDWA. Currently the annual subscription is £6.50 which should be sent to Geoff Saunders, 117 Higher Lane, Rainford, ST HELENS, Merseyside WA11 8BQ.

Sunday 19 June

Frank Smythe's 1933 Surrey
HillsWalk Revisited : Part 2

Once again more than twenty members and friends met at the Pitch Hill car park in anticipation of yet another walk linked - however tenuously - with Frank Smythe. Our leader soon had us blowing a little as we climbed Pitch Hill but there was then a pleasant respite as we coasted down through Peaslake to Abinger from where we climbed up to the North Downs Way. This was followed until we dropped down into Shere and onto the Drummond Arms in Albury. The beer was good, the food likewise although it has to be said there was not quite as much cream with the dessert as one member of the National Committee would have wished. The top of St. Martha's hill was our next stop from where we enjoyed the views before picking our way carefully down the steep path to the bottom near the old gunpowder mills. Here a quick count of the group revealed we were one short, Sandra James was no longer with us. For the comfort of those who have yet to take part in a social walk I am pleased to be able to report she was not abandoned; a search party containing John, John, and Jim was soon formed which then headed back up the steep slope of St. Martha's. There she was enjoying the sunshine, sitting on a bench wondering where we had gone. Apparently she had gone into the church and was still there when we left. Some said she had been praying for a helicopter to take her to the car park at the finish of the walk! After that we remained close together and reached the car park with no further incidents. It had been a good day out. Many thanks to John.

Brian Haigh

Wednesday 22 June

Midsummer Evening Walk

A select group gathered in Surbiton at the Walk's new venue. After a tour of the centre of Kingston we followed the Thames tow path to a side entrance to Hampton Court park but here the planned route had to give way to the advance preparations of the Hampton Court flower show. A circuit of the gardens led to a pleasant stroll to the Kingston Gate where we emerged just before it was closed for the night. Next year we will go through Bushey Park.

Barbara Blatchford

PROGF

Sunday 2 October Dunsfold Kaster

20 or 12 miles from Dunsfold village hall, (GR 507 363), start 0915-1100 to finish by 1730. Entry on day only. £1 (non-LDWA £1.20). Bring Pathfinder map 1246 TQ 03/13 Heesham and Cranleigh, compass and pencil. Organised by LDWA Surrey Group, SAE Brian Haigh, 17 Lower Edgeborough Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 2DX.

Sunday 9 October Pitch Hill Ceremony

In joint memory of the two co-founders of the LDWA, Alan Blatchford (2) and Chris Steer (1), a toposcope will be unveiled at 10.30am on the top of Pitch Hill. The toposcope will carry a bronze memorial plaque, to Alan and Chris, and the text under a drawing of the view will include a paragraph about the LDWA. Those wishing to attend should meet in the Pitch Hill car park - GR 080 426 - at 10.15 for the short walk to the summit. After the ceremony Tony Youngs will lead a 12 mile walk with a lunchtime pub stop, returning to the Pitch Hill carpark.

Friday-Sunday 14-16 October Wales Weekend

Another chance to spend a pleasant weekend with Don Hadfield and others. Eleven have indicated they will be going but there are still a few vacancies if anyone else wishes to go. Molly Groundsell will be pleased to provide additional information Tel: 0483 762843.

Sunday 23 October Scrub Clearing

A minimum of eight volunteers are needed to clear scrub around the old bus shelter near Steer's Field. If you are able to help please telephone Tony Youngs (0737 778615) soon.

Thursday 3 November Walking the Great Wall

A slide show by Gillian Bull at her home in Virginia Water, 7.30 for 8.00. Please contact Gillian on 0344 842508 if you intend to go.

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AMME

Saturday 12 November Another Autumn Afternoon Around Ashtead

An afternoon walk of about 12 miles over Ashtead Common and Epsom Downs followed by refreshments. Start 12.30 Dave Challenger's house, 44 Agates Lane, Ashtead (GR 178 577) OS 187 or Pathfinder Series 1206. Please phone Dave in advance (0372 277138) if you are coming for catering and car parking purposes.

Saturday 10 December Christmas Walk and Dinner

Once again Mervyn Harvey has volunteered to make the arrangements after the successful event last year. The walk starts at 9.00am from Dunsfold Village Hall GR 007 363. Pub stop for lunch. Dinner will be in the Sun Inn Dunsfold, opposite the Village Hall. The number of places is limited to 30 so to avoid disappointment send your £5 deposit to Mervyn a.s.a.p. at 2 Mill Lane, GODALMING Surrey. The full price is likely to be about £18.

Monday 2 January Surrey Inns Kanter

20 or 12 miles from St. Catherine's Hall, Chestnut Avenue, GUILDFORD to finish by 4.30pm. ENTRY ON DAY ONLY, start 9.15am - 11am. Entry 70p (50p OAPS and UB40s, 30p n-16s, LDWA members 10p off each fee) includes tea. Bring OS maps 186&187 (or SU84/94 and TQ04/14), compass and pencil. 21st Anniversary event. SAE Keith Chesterton, Fife, Chestnut Avenue, GUILDFORD, GU2 5HD.

It is understood the route will pass more inns than last year but times could be longer.

Sunday 15 January Winter Tanners

The start for this thirty mile challenge event will be the same as last year from the car park in Leatherhead at GR 164 567. Entry forms (SAE please) are available from Brian Haigh 17 Lower Edgeborough Road, GUILDFORD GU1 2DX

PROGRAMME (Cont)

Thursday 19 January AGM

8.00pm The White Horse, Shere, GS 185 GR 972 476. Please note new venue. Agenda will cover election of officers and suggestions for future programme followed by a slide show.

Saturday 21 January Punchbowl Marathon Marshals Walk

This event is strictly for those who wish to do the walk AND marshal on the day. Two distances available; the full 30 miles or 15 miles. All start at Witley station at 08.00am. 15 miles finish at Haslemere station and return by train. More details from Keith Chesterton tel 0483 63392

Sunday 5 February Punchbowl Marathon

30 miles in West Surrey starting from Chichester Hall, Witley GR 948 294. Entry £3.50 up to Jan 31 1985 on the day. SAE to Reg Chapman, 63 Yockley Close, CAMBERLEY, GU15 1QQ.

Saturday 25 February Surrey Summits Marshals Walk

Sunday 26 March Amberley Amble

More information will be available from Diane Scaife in the new year

Saturday 1 April Surrey Summits

SAE to Dave Challenger, 44 Agates Lane, Ashstead, Surrey KT21 2ND for more information.

Sunday 30 April Founders' Footpaths

A route proving walk of a 24 mile Anytime Challenge Event, visiting Steer's Field, Blatchford Down, the Old Post Office at Peaslake, the Pitch Hill Toposcope and Tanners Hatch Youth Hostel. Leader Tony Youngs (0737 778615)

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Sunday 26 June

Steer's Field Ceremony

You will have seen the report and photographs in *Strider* of the Steer's Field naming ceremony when many of Chris's family and friends celebrated the dedication of this most appropriate memorial to LDWA No 1.

It was a splendid day; the sun shone and the wild flowers, especially the pyramidal orchids, were at their glorious best. Bernie Pearson, the LDWA Chairman, travelled down from remote parts far north of Watford for the occasion and was persuaded by the view from Steer's Field of what he had never dreamt could be true: that there is country southeast worth walking over.

The old bus shelter near Steer's Field, a solid timber construction that the National Trust intend to restore as a walkers' shelter with an information panel on the North Downs Way, is completely overgrown. By agreement with the NT we have offered to provide a working party on 23 October to clear the scrub. See entry in programme.

Tony Youngs.

Sunday 10 July

Thames Path - NDW Link

Six of us met at Surbiton station on a day far too hot and sticky for walking (at least for the leader). Initially we attempted to follow the route of the Hogsmill Walk - where it could be detected on the ground - to reach the county boundary. We then continued across Ashstead Common for a welcome drink in the Group's old watering hole, the Leg of Mutton and Cauliflower. Dave Challenger left us here for home just around the corner so five of us continued along Stane Street and over Mickleham Down to meet the North Downs Way at Box Hill where we enjoyed a welcome cuppa. Among the comments heard at this stage were "It was certainly different", and "Why would anyone want to walk from the Thames to the NDW?" Why indeed?

Barbara Blatchford

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Sunday 14 August

Return to Farnham

This was my first walk since being diagnosed as having angina, back in June, and although I only completed half of it, I would like to thank Janet for suggesting it in the first place; Reg for returning me to Farnham at lunchtime; to walk leader Mervyn for an interesting walk, and for taking an interest in my welfare; and to all of the others for doing likewise throughout the morning. I have now been BANNED from doing anything over 5 miles for the next two months so it may be later in the year before I see you all again.

Les Maple

Many thanks to Les for this report. Earlier this year, in May, Les was one of a team of four which successfully completed the Great outdoors Challenge by walking across Scotland from west to east in two weeks. The other members were Tony Skipp, Peter Duffell and John Lay. The scenery was fabulous - there were only two hours of rain from start to finish. We hope it will not be too long before Les is allowed to get fully into his stride once again.

Mobile Phones Still Wanted

For the first time mobile, hand held telephones were used on the Surrey Summits to provide links between the Emergency Control operated by Louise Cartwright and two of the roving Marshals in the field. The arrangement worked very well but was expensive, particularly the call charges. If there are any members who would consider loaning a mobile telephone to the Surrey Summits Organising Committee then I know they would be grateful. Please contact me or Tony Cartwright to discuss details including availability and costs.

Brian Haigh

PS This note drew a blank when it first appeared in the last issue of the Newsletter. Is there no one out there who could help? The Surrey Summits will be held on 1st and 2nd April 95.

Items for the Newsletter

Reports of past events and other items should be sent to the Secretary for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Preferably they should be typed but legible manuscript will be gladly accepted.