



LDWA Surrey Group

NEWSLETTER

January 1994



Group Officers

Chairman.	Keith Chesterton, Firle, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5HD Tel: 0483 63392
Secretary.	Brian Haigh, 17 Lower Edgeborough Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 2DX. Tel 0483 303020
Treasurer.	Sue Boyman, 64 Surrey Grove, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 3PN Tel 081 715 3179
Membership Secretary	Reg Chapman, 63 Yockley Close, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1QQ. Tel 0276 65169

Chris Steer Memorial

The latest position is that the AGM agreed the Group would contribute £1000 to the cost of a memorial to be placed on Pitch Hill which would be for both Chris and Alan Blatchford, the joint founders of the LDWA. The memorial, a topograph, will be similar to the one erected on nearby Holmbury Hill. The balance of the cost will be paid by the landowner, Mrs Bray.

Wales Weekend

Twelve LDWA members joined Dan Hadfield for the Welsh weekend in October. We were pleased to have the company of Liz and Alan, both looking very well. Obviously married life is suiting them! The advance party arrived on Friday morning, just as rain set in for the day. The afternoon was spent in the interesting Dan-Yr-Ogof show caves after which we met the rest of the group for supper in the local hostelry. We were all delighted Jean was able to join us for the meal.

On Saturday our walk took us to many splendid waterfalls, all in full spate. Although it was very wet and muddy underfoot, the day was mainly dry. Two rivers had to be crossed during our nineteen mile walk. In the middle of the first Peter managed a spectacular fall, but avoided any problems at the second as he stepped confidently across leaving even those in bog trotters to suffer wet feet.

The sun shone on Sunday and we set off on what proved to be a splendid walk. We lunched by a remote lake where legend has it that a maiden of incomparable beauty appeared to a young man tending his cattle. Not surprisingly he fell in love with her. After lunch we climbed up to a superb ridge giving magnificent views of the distant Brecon Beacons.

Many, many thanks to Dan for a truly memorable weekend. Roll on next year!

Molly Groundsell

Surrey Group Evening Meetings - Questions from your new (recycled) Chairman

I would like to make the Surrey Group evening meetings (Programme Planning Meetings) have less "business" and more general walking interest such as slide shows on walking areas, talks on walking topics - how to lighten your rucksack, care of the feet, the best trespasses - and quizzes, etc. To make time, the Chair would need to be fairly strict with long talkers! We could make the meetings entirely non-business by having the Group's committee meet separately. What are your views on the following?

1. Do you want meetings a) as now b) part planning c) committee does all the planning?
2. What social activity do you prefer a) slide shows b) talks c) quizzes d) others?
3. Do you have any suggestions for the above - or will you volunteer?
4. Any other comments?

Please reply to Keith Chesterton. We shall note all ideas but don't guarantee to follow them!

Keith Chesterton

20th Surrey Inns Kanter 3rd January 1994

The weather was ideal, at least for the organiser sat in a nice warm hall. For the participants it was less good with heavy rain turning one path into a river and making it difficult to find the answer to one of the clues. The two courses used were 'golden oldies' dating back to 1986 and I had many comments saying how well the routes were liked. The extension to the 18 mile route was particularly pleasant and easy for the few runners who took part. The Barley Mow at Sands made a good stop.

Especially for Tony Youngs I incorporated the path along the length of Putterham golf course as I was sorry to hear a few had long-cutted it by using the road.

Perhaps because the Bank Holiday was not on 1st January giving people more time to recover from New Year's Eve there was a higher attendance than normal. 157 took part, 93 on the 12 mile route, 62 on the 18 and 2 unaccounted for. The first two runners were back in a splendid time of 2 hours 50 mins. almost before the last starter left. The last two arrived in a taxi to collect their gear just as I was locking up the hall! In between old faithful Mark Pickard had the fastest time of 3 hours 22 mins. for the long route with Phil Pollard and Martyn Greaves just 9 minutes behind. Les Maple and John Lay took 7 hours and 53 mins, but had the distinction of being the only two to do both routes. Only after following around the clues for the twelve miler did they remember they were doing the long route.

Can I thank very much my helpers - Joan Wrenn who worked throughout the entire day, Derek Bowdell who helped before and after his walk and for checking the route, and Tony and Louise Cartwright for helping out at the end. They all had to work very hard because of the larger than normal level of entries. I enjoy organising events but I find it very difficult to obtain helpers. The kanter is a particularly easy event to help on, as helpers can both do the walk and help at either the beginning or end. Can I appeal for helpers for the 21st event on 2nd January 1995 which, as promised, will be the last I shall organise.

Keith Chesterton

Advance Notice: Six Shropshire Summits

Keith Chesterton is willing to organise a party to do the Six Shropshire Summits on 10th September. At this stage the plan is to hire a coach which would leave the night before, thus ensuring an early start. The coach would then return immediately after the walk removing any need for an overnight stay. If you are interested please give Keith a ring. The distance is about 40 miles.

PROG1

Sunday 27 February In Search of Octavia Hill

Only 18 miles. Start at the Churchill statue in Westerham, GR 447 540. Pub stop for lunch. For additional information contact Barbara Blatchford Tel.: 081-390 5957.

Saturday 5 March Surrey Summits Marshal's Walk

For further information contact Jeff Ellingham 0428 683174.

Sunday 27 March Molly's Meander / Farnham Profile

This promises to be an enjoyable 18+ mile walk in and around Farnham. Start 09.00 from Farnham railway station (GR 846 464). Pub stop, food available, but you can bring a picnic lunch. For further details contact Molly Groundsdel Tel.: 0483 762843 or Peter Bull Tel.: 0344 842508

Sunday 24 April Jevington Jaunt *4422 92W*

The ninth and last of the second series of Tony Youngs's South Downs walks. 22 miles on clifftops and downland, visiting the Eight Bells at Jevington and the Long Person of Wilmington (not another pub!). Start 09.30 from the Sussex Group's seat near St. Bedes School at the west end of Eastbourne seafront (TV 600 971 LOS 199 or 1324 will cover the route. For illustrated route sheet send SAE to Tony Youngs, 17 Linkfield Lane, REDHILL, RH1 1JF after 31st March.

Thursday 12 May Planning Meeting and Quiz

The venue will be the Prince of Wales in Shore, start 7.30 for 8.00 pm. In addition to the usual planning meeting there will be a quiz organised by Chairman Keith. If you think you know some of the answers do come along; and if you think you might not, still come along - just think what you might learn.

LAMME

Saturday 14 May **Surrey: North to South**

39 mile social walk from Colnbrook to the southernmost point by Haslemere. Start 08.15 GR 027 770 (OS176). Finish at Haslemere railway station. For those who wish to start from Guildford catch the 06.06 train to Weybridge for the 06.29 to Staines. From there the 07.20 for Sunneymede and then walk two miles to the start. Return by train from Haslemere to Guildford. For route sheet SAE to Keith Chesterton.

Sunday 19 June **Frank Smythe's 1933 Surrey Hills
Walk Revisited : Part 2**

Start at Pitch Hill car park (GR060 428) at 09.00. Not more than 20 miles. Pub stop for lunch. More details from John Lay Tel. : 0932 38006

Wednesday 22 June **Midsummer Evening Walk**

6 to 8 miles from 49 Minstrel Gardens, Surbiton (GR 189 681). Start 19.00 Leader Barbara Blatchford 081-390 5957. Please ring her if you intend to do the walk.

Sunday 10 July **Thames Path - NDW Link**

Start 09.00 Surbiton railway station. Car park off Victoria Road. Route finding linear walk. Bring lunch in case a pub is not found. Return from Box Hill station. More details from Barbara Blatchford, Tel. : 081-390 5957.

Sunday 14 August **Return to Farnham**

Start 09.00 in car park at Farnham Castle Gr 841 475. Pub stop for lunch. 20 miles or so social walk. More details from Mervyn Harvey, Tel. : 0483 34184

Winter Tanners 9 January

There was no rain this year unlike 1993 but heavy rain - and snow - before the event made this a contender for the muddiest Tanners ever. Entries, and starters were down on last year which was not surprising in view of the conditions. Several telephoned me to enquire if it was to be cancelled. Some sounded quite disappointed when I confirmed it was on. Once again the route was produced by John Westcott and had the distinction of crossing the A246 no less than four times. There were very few retirements during the day which seemed to indicate that those who turned out were determined to finish regardless of the mud. Many thanks to the helpers at the Check Points, Start and Finish.

Brian Haigh

1994 Dartmoor Hundred - Checkpoint 2 (17 miles)

Lousdon Memorial Hall (GR707 731), open Saturday May 28 Noon till 1900
More help URGENTLY needed

Volunteers to date:

Peter Groundsell	Molly Groundsell	Peter Waterhouse
Betty Waterhouse	Reg Chapman	Cyril Watmore
Roger Moss	Peter Edwards	

Janet Chapman (0276 65169)

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.

Walking in Canyon Lands: November 4th

Those who missed this splendid slide show from Gillian Bull did really miss a treat. Gillian had been on a Ramblers Holiday to the USA where she had visited the Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion, and also Monument Valley. The scenery is so magnificent that it is difficult to capture on film but the slides taken by Gillian were first class and must have encouraged many of the group to think of holidaying in this area of the US. Not only were we given a feast of wonderful slides, we were also provided with high quality refreshments. Well done Gillian.

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Brian Haigh

Frank Smythe's 1933 Surrey Hills Walk Revisited : Part 1

A good turn out of twenty walkers met at Starveall Corner. Conditions were dry underfoot with a low cloud base broken by an occasional shaft of sunlight but no rain : ideal autumn walking weather. We were glad to welcome several newcomers, namely Pat and Frank Taylor, Mike White, Shirley Robertson and also some friends from other Groups' Diane Scalfie from Sussex and Ron Roweth from Kent.

We left with a bit of a gallop downhill through Foxmoor wood in the general direction of Somerset Hill and the hill fort at Holmsbury. Here the views south were admired especially by those Surrey Summitteers who normally pass over here in the middle of the night. As we stood we were joined by No 22, Lynne from Brighton, who had jogged from the car park to catch up. Next we went on to Pitch Hill - more views of the South Downs. A steep descent down to the road and along past the Ewhurst windmill (and the pub of the same name) and up through the Winterfold Forest and a little bit of Blackheath (sorry about Reynards Hill, Keith; that will have to come in Part 2) to reach the Drummond Arms just a few seconds after 12 noon.

Here we were joined by Margaret Steer, Richard, and Caroline with baby Edward. The landlord put us in the conservatory, a pleasant spot, where the bill of fare seemed to satisfy most - especially the Festival bitter. After some ninety minutes, suitably revived, we left the little village of Albury and set off across Albury Park and through Silver Wood to Shere. From here special care was taken to avoid becoming hopelessly lost in Gemshill Marsh as on the walk out during the previous week. This time all went well until we reached the missing path, missing because it had been just ploughed up by the local farmer! But no problem, soon the right of way was restored as we headed over the furrows of Raikes Farm. And so we came, forsooth, to the moated Abinger Manor and its attendant Norman church. The light was beginning to fade so the temptation to stop at the pub was resisted. Instead we pressed on to Friday Street for a brief stop to regroup before the final stroll up through the pine woods on Wootton Common until we could see the tower on the top of Leith Hill appear through the trees. At the tower the kiosk was about to close but not before it met our needs. In the space of five minutes, anything and everything edible was swiftly demolished. A fitting end to yet another 'breath taking' day in the Surrey hills. Watch this space for Part 2.

John Lay

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.

Surrey Group AGM

At the AGM held on 13th January, Keith Chesterton was elected Chairman of the Group after Tony Cartwright decided to stand down after four years in the post. A warm tribute was paid to Tony by Jeff Ellingham for his efforts whilst Chairman. Sue Boyman, Treasurer, and Brian Haigh, Secretary, elected at the 1993 AGM continue in office. In addition to the usual business a motion was passed about the way in which entries for the annual Hundred mile event should be handled. The text of the motion which has been sent to the national LDWA Committee for inclusion on the agenda of the AGM to be held in March in the HOW is:-

MOTION : ENTRIES FOR HUNDREDS

The Surrey Group, mindful of the long-standing tradition of the LDWA that all members should receive equal treatment, asks the AGM to accept the following criteria :-

- a) all applicants must have successfully completed a recognised walking event of thirty or more miles in the calendar year immediately preceding the Hundred.
- b) if, at the entry closing date, the number of entries from LDWA members is more than the prescribed entry limit then all LDWA entries go into a draw for the total number of places.
- c) if, at the entry closing date, the number of entries from LDWA members is less than the prescribed entry limit but the total entries exceed the limit then the remaining allocation be made from a draw of all non-LDWA entries.
- d) if, at the entry closing date, the total number of entries is less than the prescribed entry limit then all will be accepted with the remaining places, up to the limit, allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Footnote: For the purpose of this resolution an 'LDWA member' is a person who has been a member for at least one full calendar year at the cut-off date for entries.

PROPOSER... A.C. Cartwright. SECONDER ... B.Haigh.
14th January 1994

No Rottingdean Windmill in '94

Sadly this well organised and popular event will not be held this year because of building works at Loughill School taking up the area used for parking. Hopefully it will be back in the calendar in 1995