



LDWA Surrey Group NEWSLETTER

June 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 300020
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Chris Steer Memorial

Progress has now reached an advanced stage with completion of the topograph expected late July or early August. Following discussion in the Planning Meeting on 12th May Margaret Steer has agreed to unveil the topograph in a short ceremony at 12 noon on Sunday 4th September. (See Programme)

Steer's Field

Readers of Strider will know that following the sad loss of Chris Steer the National LDWA Committee launched an appeal to raise sufficient money to 'adopt' Steer's Field, a piece of land at Rammere owned by the National Trust (GR142504). The fund reached the required level a short time ago so the next step is for suitable NT signs to be erected at entrances to the field. This is expected to be done in the near future and will be followed by an unveiling ceremony at 11.30am on Sunday 26th June. Members of the Surrey Group are invited to attend. Please bring a picnic lunch. There will be an opportunity for a walk afterwards (or even perhaps a visit to the Box Hill County Day).

If you are able to attend please will you let Ann Sayer know (29, Twickenham Road, Teddington, Middx TW11 8AQ or 081-877-9495)

Mobile Phones 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

Molly's Meander/Farnham Frolic

By 8.55 there were 27 of us waiting at Farnham railway station for Molly to lead off at 9.00 prompt towards the North Downs Way passing World War 2 pill boxes and tank traps. On past Waverley Abbey we reached Tilford, familiar to many who have walked the Funchbowl in recent years, and then on to Elstead where we had lunch at the Woolpack. And what a lunch it was! There was a wide choice of generously large main courses after which some of the party - in particular Janet Chapman and Tony Youngs - indulged themselves with some deserts which could only be described as 'huge'. The return to Farnham started off somewhat slowly but before too long we arrived back at our starting point. But that was not quite the end. Molly, bless her, had spent some spare time making Easter Nests, a concoction of chocolate coated crisps in the shape of a nest containing a clutch of small chocolate eggs. Each of us received one before setting off home. Well done Molly, it was a nice idea, much appreciated.

Brian Haigh

In Search of Octavia Hill

No less than 26 members including friends from the Kent Group - not surprising as we were on their patch - turned out for this guided tour by Barbara Blatchford to a selection of places associated with Octavia Hill, well known for her efforts in establishing the National Trust. After an exchange of views with a local who had different ideas about where some of us should park our cars in Westerham we set off in a southerly direction away from the North Downs. Determined that we should not reach the pub stop too early we (or rather "most of us") followed Barbara on a spiral course which must have passed the target by less than a quarter of a mile on at least three occasions. (It should not surprise anyone that Jim Dunster took the direct route to give himself more drinking time). Barbara rationalised it all by saying she did not wish us to arrive at the pub too early. Her wish was met, we didn't. After lunch we headed North and after crossing the A25 we were sent up the face of the North Downs before looping down again to reach Westerham. It had been a good day out.

Brian Haigh

(Editors note: there was at least one walker, notorious for her dislike of climbing and is currently not a million miles from me, that spent all day waiting in dread for the ascent of Octavia Hill)

Jevington Jaunt

The weather was kind to us for this, the ninth and last of my second cycle of South Downs walks. We even disturbed an adder basking in the sun as we strolled down into Birling Gap. Peter Bull in the morning and Dave Challenger in the afternoon kindly acted as back marker, an essential office in view of the splendid turn out of thirty-seven.

I was just two days into a course of antibiotics and found it more than I could do to keep in front at the time. Twice I found myself watching a vanguard of twenty or so vanishing like a swarm of bees, in a buzz of conversation, on a random line, oblivious of their route sheets and apparently not aware that they were following Jim Dunster, not me.

I still have some spare route sheets which I will willingly send to anyone who sends a see to me at 17 Linkfield Lane, Redhill, RH1 1JF.

Tony Youngs

North-South Surrey Walk

Although others asked for details, only four (including the leader) set off from the most northerly point in Surrey, the Star and Garter in Colnebeck, on the first Surrey Group N-S Walk since 1976. Three had walked from Sunneymeads station thus adding two and a half miles to the route. The first five miles was by water filled gravel pits, with a profusion of wild life. The bird song was great, interrupted only by the Heathrow aircraft going overhead every thirty seconds. Windsor Park had its azaleas and rhododendrons in full bloom; it was a beautiful day.

We slipped a little behind time with navigation as my injury incurred on the Surrey Summits had prevented me checking the route; last time was 1976. It was also noted that my maps were vintage - the M25 had been coloured in by hand! As food was being taken in a Cobham pub one decided to walk home to her home in Cobham leaving the other three to continue as the rain started. A little later Bob decided to call it a day when they reached his conveniently placed caravan. Colin and I continued but when we reached Compton we decided to leave the route and walked into Guildford instead having done a very creditable 33.5 miles.

Strictly speaking it was a failure but it helped to produce a good route description for next time. The true distance was 41.5 miles (not 39) + 2.5 to reach the start. It was also noticed that there is a cafe - Colin's Cafe - just 400 metres from the start which opens at 7am.

Keith Chesterton

H

LDWA AGM : Hundreds

After a vote which rejected the motion put forward by George Foot (and which prompted the motion submitted by the Surrey Group) our motion was, with the agreement of our representatives - Keith Chesterton and myself - remitted to the LDWA Committee for them to incorporate into guidance for Groups organising Hundred events. Hopefully this will now bring to a close the controversy generated by this topic.

Brian Heigh

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.

Punchbowl Marathon

At the Planning Meeting on 12th May it was announced that Jeff Ellingham would no longer be available to organise the event. After a brief discussion in which warm tributes were paid to Jeff, not only for his efforts in running the Punchbowl but also for the Surrey Summits, it was agreed the event would continue. The new Organiser is Keith Chesterton; entry forms, Etc., will be handled by Reg Chapman. It is believed there is a good chance that it will revert to being a 30 mile event and could include Black Down once again.

In view of his efforts in organising the Punchbowl and the Surrey Summits, from which he has also decided to withdraw, the meeting requested that a suitable letter of appreciation should be sent to Jeff and this has been done. Fortunately his help will still be available to us in matters concerning the use of the Chichester Hall, Witley.

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.

PROG

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

Start at Pitch Hill car park (GR080 428) at 09:00. Not more than 20 miles. Pub stop for lunch. More details from John Lay tel. : 0932 348296

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.

Saturday 26 June **Steer's Field - Unveiling**

See details on page 2 of this newsletter.

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. : 0428 685516 or 0483 34184

Thursday 1 September **Planning Meeting and Slide Show**

Meet in the Prince of Wales, Shere, 7.30 for 8pm. The slides will be of a recent visit to Lapland.

Sunday 4 September **Pitch Hill Ceremony**

Meet at 11.45am on top of Pitch Hill for unveiling of topograph erected in memory of Chris Steer and Alan Blatchford, founder members of the LDWA. Bring picnic lunch. Further details from Tony Cartwright.

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AMME

Saturday 10 September Petersfield to Witley

Start 8am from Petersfield railway station. 7.05 train from Guildford or park car at Witley station and 7.30 train to Petersfield. Pub lunch available at Red Lion in Fernhurst then continue via Blackdown to Witley. Leader Keith Chesterton, tel. 0483 63392.

Sunday 2 October Dunsfold Kanter

20 or 12 miles from Dunsfold village hall, (GR 507 863), start 0915-1100 to finish by 1930. Entry on day only. £1 (non-LDWA £1.20). Bring OS maps 186 and 187, compass and pencil. Organised by LDWA Surrey Group, SAE Brian Haigh, 17 Lower Edgeborough Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 2DX.

Friday-Sunday 14-16 October Wales Weekend

Another chance to spend a pleasant weekend with Dan Hedfield and others. Molly Groundsell will be pleased to provide additional information Tel: 0483 742843.

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 842568 if you intend to go.

Saturday 12 November Another Autumn Afternoon Around Ashted

An afternoon walk of about 12 miles over Ashted Common and Epsom Downs followed by refreshments. Start 12.30 Dave Challenger's house, 44 Agates Lane, Ashted (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 Dinner

Once again Mervyn Harvey has volunteered to make the arrangements after the successful event last year. More details in next Newsletter.

Surrey and the Dartmoor Hundred

30th April - 2nd May

28th May - 30th May

The marshalls walk took place on the Mayday weekend in gruelling heat. Our Congratulations to the Marshalls from the Surrey group who all completed the course. Ann Sayer, Ann Beeching, Elaine Edwards, Peter Groundsell and Roger Moss the later taking part in his first hundred and completing in approx. 35 hours. Well done to all.

During the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, these marshalls along with twenty other gallant volunteers from Surrey plus a few from neighbouring Essex and Herts ran the Surrey group checkpoint on the main event. There were 469 starters at Ivybridge and arrivals at Leusdon, the Surrey checkpoint, high on the moors, seventeen miles from the start, came fast and furious. However as is the nature of Surrey checkpoints, TLC was liberally distributed and every ones needs tended. (No Queuing and waiting at our checkpoint).

Thanks are extended to Reg Chapman, Peter and Elaine Edwards, Peter and Betty Waterhouse, Molly and Peter Groundsell, Mervyn Harvey and Elizabeth, the Moss Family (Roger, Chris, Paul and Steve), Bobby Andrews, Peter Short, Sylvia Steer, Steve Clarke, Ann Sayer, Ann O'Mara and Marlies van den Hurk, the latter who having only just joined the group brought herself and her friend Kisa Breuring along to help and to see what checkpointing and hundreds were all about. From Essex and Herts, Renate Romer, Brenda and Pat Ryan, Jenny Plumb and Georgie Hogg. Finally not forgetting Janet Chapman who although walking administered and organised the checkpoint.

Congratulations are extended to the following Surrey Group Members who completed the 10(1) miles: Bob Andrews, Ian Ditchfield, Richard Hodgkiss, Martin Fox, Janet Chapman, Barry Harrison and finally congratulations to Jenny Bean for the completion of her first 100 in approx. 40 hours.

Many thanks also to Steve Clarke, who I am reliably informed by the organisers, played the role of the Pied Piper acting as escort to many stray walkers rounding them up and walking to the finish, walking not only forwards along the route, but in reverse as well. Your talents are numerous Steve.

S

Surrey Summits Marshals Walk and Marshals

The marshals walk also acted as the final check of the route description. Adding to the challenge, especially toward the end, conditions mirrored the main event. Martyn Greaves and Peter Groundsell recorded 21 hours 44 minutes; Janet Chapman, Jenny Bean, Elaine Edwards, Les Maple, Roger Moss Ann Sayer and Diane Sealife finished together in 22 hours 45 minutes. Diane had to cajole Les to postpone the forty winks he felt he needed after the gully climbing of Hascombe Hill. John Lay sensibly called it a day at 27 miles when not well.

Rog Chapman again excelled himself as sole support.

The committee and walkers of the main event wish to thank all marshals who combined to make a tremendous team.

The Start:	Tony Cartwright Martyn Greaves Jenny Bean Harry Wickens	Louise Cartwright Dave Challenger Glenys Kirkpatrick	Dave Green Edith Sykes Sue Moxon
St Martha's	Dave Challenger Kate Chapman Sue Moxon	Jenny Bean Glenys Kirkpatrick Edith Sykes	Janet Chapman Brian Haigh
Crooknorth	Glenys Kirkpatrick Erik F. Therkelsen Tony Cartwright	Brian Haigh Shirley Griffin	Sue Moxon John Robinson
Headley	Ian Ellis Lay Kirkpatrick Waterhouse	Karen Ellis Sue Moxon Diane Sealife	Victoria Ellis John Edith Sykes Glenys Ken Styen Betty
Wotton	Tony Cartwright Brian Haigh Gillian Bull	Janet Chapman Edith Sykes Sue Moxon	Kate Chapman Glenys Kirkpatrick Diane Sealife
Holmbury	Dave Challenger Jen Moore	Brian Bickle Ann Sayer	Maureen Bickle
Smithbrook	Elaine Edwards John Robinson	Phyl Jackson	Les Maple
Finish	Roger Le Moine Edith Sykes Mike Searle Tony Cartwright	Jim Crawford Glenys Kirkpatrick Sandy Fenner John Lay	Sue Moxon Val Greenwood Angus MacArthur Brian Haigh

Surrey Summits 1994 The Surrey Group Premier Event

A considerable amount of rain in the days and weeks before the Event had left the going not only very heavy, but distinctly wet in some places. By comparison the Grand National Course must have been like a bowling green

Up to CP2 the conditions were more or less as expected - awful. From there on they seemed to improve somewhat with only occasional awfulness, notably the section past the cottage just after CP3, where on a previous Marshals walk, Tony Cartwright had managed to impale himself on a barbed wire fence, whilst trying to negotiate the mud. Further bad conditions were also encountered on the long track from High Ashes to Holmbury St Mary. However in general nothing much to complain about until after Pitch Hill. From then on it went from bad to worse. The gully down to Jelley's hollow, appalling, the track between fences after that (which has always been awful apart from the one year when it was resurfaced), quite horrible. Wading in water over ankles for some 200 metres in Cranleigh (though thankfully not up to the walker's thighs) and finally worst of all the mud bath ascent of Hascombe Hill. Thank goodness it didn't rain.

Having had a run of good weather for some years it was only to be expected and fair that for once the conditions should mirror what the marshals walk had to suffer. However not withstanding the conditions under foot and a forecast of showers from the met office (fortunately incorrect), no less than 196 out of the 219 entrants left Chichester Hall for the 19th 100Km tour of the Surrey hills. Many were keen to leave at the earliest possible time of 9.30am and within minutes all had departed and were heading for Hambledon and Hydon's Ball beyond. The first CP, at St Martha's Hill, was soon reached and all continued except one who was suffering from a feverishly high temperature. Perhaps it was excitement! By now there was some watery sunshine, although now and then there was an ominous build up of dark clouds, which fortunately came to nothing.

CP2 Crocknorth Farm, where more refreshments were available and a third of the route completed. CP3 was a new one on Headley Heath replacing the one in the quarry, the previous year, a slight increase in distance, but certainly appreciated by the marshals. From now on it was a case of getting stuck in to cover the miles going via Steer's field to

reach CP4 at Wotton, where once again the culinary skills of Janet Chapman, assisted by Kate Chapman, the latter adapting skills mastered in Macdonalds, to ensure that the walkers were well nourished for the remaining dark 22 miles. The only decision here for the diners to make was to ascertain their preferences for either Chicken or vegetarian sweet and sour, with or without pineapple garnish, then served by the fastest waitresses and occasional waiter in the South.

From here to the finish via the CPs at Holmbury and Smithbrook Kilns the conditions underfoot gradually deteriorated with the climax reached in the gully up to Hascombe Hill. This final quagmire must have produced more silent walkers, interspersed with prayers (oh God) and yelps of agony, followed by the not so silent cursing of the organising committee for routing the walk through a full 200 yards of three foot glutinous yellow mud. One walker who was impeded by another stopping just in front of him had great difficulty in starting again, such was the depth of boot sucking mud.

The Surrey Group's policy of notifying every household that would be passed during darkness paid off shortly after Holmbury Hill, where one of the female entrants came to grief. The occupiers of the first house that was reached were thus not 'too' alarmed when the injured walker and companion asked for help at the dead of night. Tea and sympathy were provided and a call to the Walk's Emergency telephone soon had transport to the finish arranged.

Our new group chairman, Keith Chesterton had a similar experience saying, "Going slightly off route, coming off Holmbury Hill, and alone, I fell about five feet down a bank onto a hard track, cutting a knee (and trousers), grazing and giving myself a large shock. I gave out a loud shout as I landed! Two walkers below me on the path heard my shout and came back up to see if I was Ok. They helped me up, gave me a drink, pain-killers and offered me first aid. They then walked slowly with me until I recovered. I think this shows the good spirit of the LDWA when people help another entrant, with a consequent loss of time."

Finally of the 196 starters 165 finished.

(Report first published in the 1994 results booklet by Brian Haigh, George Foot and Jeff Ellingham - modified and adapted by Janet Chapman).