



# LDWA Surrey Group

## NEWSLETTER

February 1995



### Group Officers

<b>Chairman.</b>	<b>Keith Chesterton,</b> Firle, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5HD Tel: 01483 63392
<b>Secretary.</b>	<b>Brian Haigh,</b> 17 Lower Edgeborough Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 2DX Tel 01483 303020
<b>Treasurer.</b>	<b>Sue Boyman,</b> 64 Surrey Grove, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 3PN Tel 0181 715 3179
<b>Membership.</b>	<b>Reg Chapman,</b> 63 Yockley Close, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1QQ Tel 01276 65169

### Items for the Newsletter

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

## Yorkshire Dales 100

25th - 27th May 1996

I am sure that you will all be delighted that the organisers of the Yorkshire Dales 100 in 1996 have asked Surrey to host the breakfast stop. Surrey's reputation for efficiency and hospitality has reached the outback's of the North, so knowing that our members always respond to a challenge I accepted on the groups behalf.

The breakfast Checkpoint is at 64 miles in Dentdale Youth Hostel OS 98 GR 774 851, opening at 23.30 Saturday 25th - 16.30 Sunday 26th. We will have full use of all the hostel accommodation, the only proviso being that we are out by 17.00, so that the hostel can open to resume normal service. Baggage will not be our problem as it will be handled by another, yet to be nominated group.

Anyone who is torn between walking the event and flying the flag for Surrey marshalling, will have the opportunity to join the marshals walk August Bank Holiday weekend this year, starting from the Field Centre in Giggleswick, which is 400 yds away from the start of the main event in Settle. So if you are walking the Shropshire 100, two hundreds in one year will ensure peak fitness! The marshals walk will count as a 1996 completion but will not be counted as a qualifier for the 1997 100, which for Surrey members will be our own marshals walk. Please contact me as soon as possible if you wish to join the marshals walk.

With reference to expenses, there may be limited funding from Yorkshire and other reasonable claims will be underwritten by Surrey.

*Janet Chapman*

## Happy Birthday to Keith

Congratulations to Keith Chesterton who celebrated his 60th birthday on the very same day as the AGM. When he tried to open the meeting he was assailed with a melodious rendering of 'Happy Birthday' and presented with a card and a cake considerably made by Molly Groundwell. I think he still has the card but the cake did not last long; it was quickly devoured by those who had turned up for the AGM. It just goes to show that AGMs can be entertaining after all

## Friday-Sunday 14-16 October Wales Weekend

There was a welcome in the hillside when the week-enders arrived at the Wenault on the evening of 14th October. The converted farm with views across to the Brecon Beacons had an amiable host, split level reception rooms and a variety of accommodation. One member found herself in the attic with a host of toys - a reward for booking late? - another luxuriated in a splendid double room and others enjoyed the cosiness of the ensuite cowsheds. (I hope they had been converted Ed). The day had been spent climbing out of Abergavenny cloaked in a fine mist. The eleven members lucky enough to be able to start their break on the Friday morning were greeted by Dan Hadfield who, once again, had carefully planned a programme of Welsh delights. After a picnic lunch by the canal Dan guided us to Hill's Tramway, the footpath traversing the Bloreng. Here above the mists we had our first glimpse of sugar loaf mountain bathed in sunshine. The path led us on past the Punchbowl, a lake high on the Bloreng. The weather continued to clear as Friday evening saw Dan, Jean and the whole group dining at the Vine Tree.

Saturday dawned crisp and sunny and the route began with a series of steep climbs which took us towards Gaer Hill Fort. Most relished each new challenge but there had to be several rest stops to let the stragglers catch up. Across the valley the wooded hill-sides blushed with the rusts, reds and golds of Autumn. It was breathtaking. Conversation bubbled as we stepped out but took on a new dimension when we reached St. Martin's Church at Cwmyoy. This quaint old building, curiously affected by the Cwmyoy landslip many years ago now had no part of it at right angles to any other. The final climb of the morning took us to the summit of Hatteroll Hill and the Offa's Dyke Path. Here there were more magnificent views before we descended to Llantony Priory where Elaine, grounded by an Achilles problem was waiting. After a picnic lunch Barbara and I kept her company while Dan and the rest of the group sought new slopes.

Sadly the sunshine did not last and Sunday's walk along the Brecon and Monmouth canal and then up to Folly's Tower was cold windy and foggy. At the tower we joined the Cambrian Way and then dropped down to the only pub in the region, The Goose and

Chicken. The pub was packed with hungry customers all trying to order at once. Most of us soon realised a bowl of 15 bean soup was the best order but one insisted on ordering lasagne. An hour later the happy soup eaters were consoling their lasagne-less friend. Eventually with great reluctance he ate a pizza which had arrived unannounced. This done we prepared to move off when, lo and behold, the lasagne arrived.

Later as we gathered at Jean and Dan's we enjoyed more Welsh delights in the shape of delicious home-made cakes. Jean, having learnt it was Ann's birthday, had miraculously produced an iced cake with a candle. We sang our congratulations and then slowly made our farewells. It had been a wonderful weekend; many thanks to Dan, Jean and Molly.

*Pat Taylor*

### **Pitch Hill Ceremony**

**Sunday 9 October**

The following is an extract from an article by Martyn Berry which appeared in a recent Newsletter of the Kent Group :-

The memorial was covered with purple. We stood in front of it, people of all ages but weighted towards the veteran end. Tony Cartwright welcomed us, and introduced Mrs Bray, whose family owns nearly half of the Hurtwood Control area. She spoke eloquently about the foundation and work of the Control - she apologised for the faintly Big Brother-ish seventy-year-old name, but the Charity Commissioners were not disposed to change it - and explained it was created to allow 'air and exercise' for all who wanted to enjoy its 4000 acres, and free access to all its land, not just the paths. She thanked the LDWA for making the memorial possible, a match for the one already on Halmbury Hill. Keith Chesterton, hotfoot from the Wealden Waters (literally - he finished it at 6 a.m.), spoke movingly of Alan and Chris and said he thought Alan's spirit would not lightly have forgiven him if he had not both finished the Wealden Waters and got to Pitch Hill. Both Barbara Blatchford and Margaret Steer spoke words of gratitude and pride; and then they lifted back the covering to unveil the memorial toposcope.

**Sunday 23 October**  
**Shrub Clearing**

On Sunday 23 October seven members cleared scrub to the south of Ramscote Common Road, near where the North Downs Way enters Steer's Field from the East, to reveal the surprisingly solid remains of a former bus shelter which the National Trust intend to renovate as a walkers' shelter furnished with a map and a description of the North Downs Way.

The seven made short work of the task and soon after eleven were relaxing in the welcome warmth of their bonfire.

*Tony Youngs.*

**Monday 2 January**  
**Surrey Inns Kaster**

The last - and 21st - Surrey Inns Kaster to be organised by Keith Chesterton was a resounding success. 198 took part to make it the third best supported event only beaten by 1984 (220) and 1985 (212). It was a beautiful dry frosty winter day with a clear blue sky throughout, just right for a post Christmas walk. The route, a repeat of the one used in 1986, took the walkers out to Shere and beyond before returning over St. Martha's Hill to the North Downs Way and over the river Wey back to the finish. Next year it will be under new management Keith having declared he has run out of inspiration for new routes. Whether this is true or not it is certainly true that his routes in the past have given a lot of pleasure to a lot of people. Many thanks to Keith.

*Brian Haigh*

## PROG

**Sunday 5 February      Punchbowl Marathon**

30 miles in West Surrey starting from Chichester Hall, Witley GR 948 394. Entry £3.50 up to Jan 21 (£5 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**

Start at 09.00 from Whiteways Lodge Picnic Area, six miles south of Pulborough on the A29 OS 197 GR 001 108. The route will cover twenty miles of assorted West Sussex countryside. Pub stop for lunch. Leader is Diane Scoble 01243 604351.

**Saturday 1 April      Surrey Summits**

For further information contact Dave Challenger 01372 277138

**Thursday 27 April      Planning Meeting**

The meeting will be in the White Horse, Shere start 7.30 for 8.00. It will be followed by either a slide show or a quiz.

**Sunday 30 April      Founders' Footpaths**

A route proving walk of a 25 mile Anytime Challenge Walk, visiting Blatchford Downs, Tanners Hatch Youth Hostel, Steer's Field, the Old Post Office at Ponslake, and the Pitch Hill Toposcope. Start 9am from Mill Plain, Pitch Hill Car Park (TQ 680 426). Lunch at (or near) the Rammore Arms. OS 186 & 187 or 1236 & 1206. Leader Tony Youngs (Tel 01737 778615). Route sheets on the day.

**Sunday 21 May      Watership Down Wander**

Certainly twenty miles and possibly twenty-two in pleasant countryside not too far from Basingstoke. Start at 8.30 am from Kingsclere car park (near the church) SO174 GR 525586.

Pub stop for lunch which has to be ordered in advance. Please contact the leader, Colin Wood, on 01252 25770 for details of the menu.

## PROGRAMME

### **Sunday 18 June                      Surrey Saunter**

20 miles from a location yet to be specified. Peter Bull has promised to lead this walk and will have more details available after 1 May 1995. His telephone number is 01344 842508.

### **Wednesday 21 June                Midsummer Walk**

Once again Barbara Blachford will be leading this traditional evening social walk from her home at 49 Mistrel Gardens, Surbiton (GR 189 681). Please give her a call if you intend to take part. Her telephone number is 0181 390 5957

### **Saturday 15 July                    Six Shropshire Summits**

Start 10 pm on Friday in Guildford for overnight journey in coach to the start near Corndon in Powys. of this classic. Support for this classic 36 miles anytime event will be provided during the walk after which the walkers will return to Guildford late on Saturday. This is an opportunity not to be missed. More details from Mervyn Harvey 01428 685516.

### **Sunday 6 August                    Chinthurst Chips**

20 miles from the car park at GR 015 463. Start at 9 am. Pub lunch for those who do not wish to carry a picnic. For more details contact John Lay 01932 346506

### **Sunday 17 September            Liphook Loiter**

20 miles starting at Liphook railway station at 9am. Pub lunch in the Prince of Wales at Hammer. This promises to be a scenic walk which will include a visit to Waggoners Wells. For more details contact Glynis Kirkpatrick on 01428 721062

### **Sunday 1 October                 Dunsfold Kanter**

12 or 20 miles from the Village Hall in Dunsfold. Start 9.15am. More details from Brian Haigh 01483 303020

### Sunday 15 January Winter Tanners

The eighteenth Winter Tanners started as usual from the car park in the centre of Leatherhead. What was different this year was the pleasant weather - we even had sunshine at one stage! With the number of entrants and starters were up on last year and only two starters failed to finish. The route was devised by John Westcott and included a visit to the newly unveiled toposcope on Pitch Hill erected in memory of Alan Blatchford and Chris Steer. My thanks go to the helpers at the Check Points; Ken Mayhew, Jean and Harry Lowe, Sue Boyman, Reg Chapman, Dave Challenger, my daughter Fiona, Tony Youngs and Tony Cariswright. Their help was invaluable.

*Brian Haigh*

### Annual General Meeting held in New Venue

The AGM was held on 19 January in a new venue, the White Horse in Shere, because of the continuing uncertainty about the future of the Prince of Wales. Attendance was similar to last year, 18 plus the Officers who were re-elected along with Reg Chapman as Membership Secretary and Barry Harrison as Auditor. A four person committee was also elected; Molly Grundsell, Reg Chapman, John Lay and Mervyn Harvey. After the AGM there was the customary Programme Planning meeting which produced a wide variety of activities for the coming months and which are shown elsewhere in this Newsletter. The evening was completed with a slide show given by Brian Haigh devoted to the Pilgrim Route from Le Puy to Conques, followed by others taken on a Ramblers holiday to the Grand Canyon.



### **Round the Borough Walk**

**Saturday 23 April 1995**

This 22 mile event is not advertised in Strider but as it is local I have decided to include it in our Newsletter. I walked it about four years ago and can promise you it follows an interesting route around the borough of Epsom and Ewell visiting the Epsom race course and the site of the famous Nonsuch Palace. The walk starts between 9 and 10am from the Green Room at Harton Country Park. Entry forms are available from Stewart Cocker, Senior Ranger, Town Hall, The Parade, EPSOM, Surrey KT18 5BY or by telephoning 01372 741191. Entry fees are adults £3.00, children and Senior Citizens £1.50.

*Brian Haigh*

### **Slide Show for Programme Meeting**

**27 April 1995**

If you have some slides you would like to show to your fellow members - sufficient for about 10 minutes - please contact either Brian Haigh or Keith Chesterton.

### **Thanks from Keith**

It was a very pleasant surprise to be given a birthday card and a cake at the start of the AGM. For once I was almost lost for words. The cake was very good - thanks Molly - which is probably why it did not last very long! The card which I will always value was an excellent idea; many thanks to all who signed it. I shall give it pride of place among my many walking souvenirs.

*Keith Chesterton*

## 1997 Hundred - The Downsman

(To date)

The first two meetings to organise the 1997 Hundred have taken place. At these meetings an initial organising group was set up to cover the key roles identified, these are:

Chairman/Chief Organiser:	Reg Chapman, with a possible chanover at a later date to Keith if Reg becomes Entries Secretary
Treasurer:	Barry Harrison
Secretary:	Barbara Blatchford
Route Design:	Brian Haigh, Peter Waterhouse
Menus:	Jasit Chapman, Molly Groundsall
Transport and Baggage:	Mervyn Harvey
Communication:	Peter Bull
Marshalls:	Roger Moss
Check Points	John Lay - Responsibilities to include visiting of checkpoints, cost- ing, identifying problems, negotiat- ing with caretakers of buildings, land etc.
Artwork/Stationery	Reg informed the meeting that he had received an offer from Tony Youngs to design a Logo.

It was agreed that Brian Haigh as the Secretary of the Surrey Group, should write to the Secretary's of both the Wessex and Sussex groups, to inform them that Surrey had been awarded the organisation of the 1997 Hundred. As the route would be partly in their patches, the letter would suggest that a contact name could be supplied who would be pleased to co operate with Surrey in matters of accomodation, etc; and be able to attend future meetings of the Organising Committee.

## 1997 Hundred - The Downsman

(Into the future)

Now we want offers of help, help on a regular basis and casual help, help with organisation and help performing specific tasks, help now, in the coming months and help on the day. We want offers of help in any shape or form.

We want this event, being the 25th hundred, to be made special. Not only is it the Silver Anniversary, not only is it a replication (as far as is possible) of the first hundred, but most importantly it is being organised by the Surrey Group. Well that's enough of the patriotic flag flying stuff, let's now spell out what we want.

Attached to the enclosed membership renewal form is our offer of help. We have tried to make this form as general as possible, with both exclusion as well as inclusion choices, time periods when you can't help as well as those times when you can. By giving this degree of freedom in choosing what you offer and when you offer it, we believe there can't be a single member that hasn't got something to offer at some time within the next two years.

It is, of course, appreciated that individual circumstances change, especially over a period of two years, and no one will be castigated regarding offers they may make now, which in time they find they are unable to fulfil. So please, none of the *well I may have moved by then or I might have had a baby by then or I might be dead*. These are excuses that can be made by everyone (well one of them can only be made by half the membership) and if everyone did indeed make them, then there would be nobody left to do anything.

So the potted guide on how to make your offer of help:

Say yes to all things that you are able to do and no only to those that you are unable, or would prefer not, to do.

Say yes to any time that you are currently free and no only if the baby is a firm booking.

May I be premature, and say thank you for your offers of help and congratulations if your opting for the baby instead.

Reg Chapman

**Annual Membership of the Surrey Group :  
Subscriptions now due.**

The membership subscription remains at £1. In a discussion at the AGM it was agreed that both renewal forms and cheques should be sent to Reg Chapman. It is easy to forget whether or not the subscription has been paid as if your envelope contains a renewal notice then the records show you have NOT paid. To avoid sending Newsletters to those who may no longer wish to receive them the renewal notices will be inserted with only two Newsletters after which it will be assumed that membership has lapsed. Your help in renewing your subscription early would be appreciated.

In order to assist members to make arrangements for transport etc. it was agreed at the AGM that a printed membership list, including each members town (not address) and their telephone number be distributed with a future newsletter. Before this can be actioned we must have approval from individual members for this information to be published. To this end you will notice the additional tick box that has been added to the renewal form - your telephone number will only be distributed if this box is so marked.

**Mobile Phones Still Needed**

For the first time mobile, hand held telephones were used on the Surrey Summits in 1994 to provide links between the Emergency Central 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 Hoyle*

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