

**Surrey Group  
NEWSLETTER**  
January 1996

**Group Officers**

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**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.

#### Report : Wales Weekend 6-8 October 1995

We met in the Abergavenny car park to find the rainy season had started and had no intention of stopping for a score of Surrey walkers. Not surprisingly we stayed rather longer than intended in the tea shop and tourist centre. With tact and delicacy, Dan Hadfield, our ex-chairman, suggested we might follow his Plan B, a walk underground in a coal mine. The box office accepted our entrance money but before going underground we handed over our watches, cameras and any other items which could possibly ignite the coal damp 90 metres below.

Our guide told us how the Big Pit had started as an iron mine and had then mined coal when the iron ran out. A narrow gauge railway runs through the roadways and as recently as 1972 pit ponies were used to pull the wagons. They were then replaced by an endless steel hawser drawn by an electric motor. The roadways had low roofs so we were glad to stand up straight again after only two hours below the surface; to have worked down there day after day must have been quite an ordeal.

Saturday's weather was no improvement on Friday's- low cloud, rain and viewless- when we started from the Tallybont reservoir following the path until it met the old rail track, now a cycle and footpath. Dan led us through cloud and mist on featureless hillsides, wet below and wet above, a bit like the Peak District on a bad day. The party kept close together for fear being lost in a sightless wilderness. Late morning found us on the edge of a wood where we sheltered for a little refreshment before our leader found a pleasant route back to the car park where we sat in our wet waterproofs to eat our lunch. The sociable dinner at Wenallt farm that evening made a welcome and pleasant contrast.

Sunday broke fine and bright and before long we were in shirt sleeve order. From Sugar Loaf mountain the views were open in all directions to the surrounding mountains and the River Severn. We hurried  
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**Report : 22nd Surrey Inns Kanter : 1st January 1966**

After a spell of 21 years continuously organised by Keith Chesterton the event was in the capable hands of Peter Bull and Robin Cobb, ably assisted by Gillian and Rona. Entries at 138 were marginally down on the 21 year average but this was caused more by the poor weather than anything else. Keith was one of the 54 who completed the long course, his first in 21 years! Many thanks to the helpers and not least to Ann Sayer, Molly Groundsell and Gillian who checked the route. I look forward to seeing you next year on 1st January 1997.

**Report : Winter Tanners 14 January 1996**

After the rain in early January the prospects looked none too good but on the day the weather was very kind with blue skies giving pleasant views and temperatures which were distinctly unseasonable. Quite a few of the walkers complained that it was too warm for a Winter Tanners. John Westcott produced a marvellous route for the 168 starters, comfortably up on 1995. After crossing Denbies vineyard the route went further south to Leith Hill before returning via Ranmore Common and Tanners Hatch YH to the finish. Many thanks to the marshals who helped at the Start, CP1 and CP2.

*Brian Hatgh*

**No Surrey Summits in 1997**

There will NOT be a Surrey Summits event in 1997 because of the involvement of the Surrey Group in the Downsman Hundred.

**Evidence of a Misspent Youth**

Mark Pickard has now sold more than one hundred of his new autobiographical book. Copies are available at £7.50 inc. p&p. from him at : 16 Reeve Road, Woodhatch, REIGATE, RH2 7PH.

## PROGRAMME

**Sunday 3 March**

**Milford Mackay**

20 miles starting 8.30am Milford railway station. GR 954 415. Pub stop for lunch. Further details from Sandra James Tel. 01932 561861 or John Dowson Tel. 01932 562797.

**Saturday 10 March**

**Surrey Summits Marshals Walk**

Strictly for those marshalling on the day. Roger Moss will be pleased to provide more information. Tel. 01252 313158.

**Sunday 31 March**

**South Downs Stroll**

About 20 miles. Contact Diane Scuffe for more details. Tel. 01243 604351.

**Saturday/Sunday 20/21 April**

**Surrey Summits**

100km and 8000 feet of climbing in central Surrey starting at 9.30am from Chichester Hall, Witley. 26 hour limit. NO RUNNING. Entry £10 LDWA members, £11 non-members (late entries after 31st March - £13) incl. refreshments, certificate, and results. NO ENTRY ON DAY. Organised by LDWA Surrey Group. Part of Southern Triple Challenge.  
SAE to: Dave Challenger, 44 Agates Lane, ASHTEAD, KT21 2ND.

**Thursday 2 May**

**Planning Meeting**

7.30 for 8.00 p.m. in the Prince of Wales in Shere.

**Saturday 11 May**

**Oven Walks**

Organised by the Thames Valley Group this event was not included in Sinder. Entry forms are available for the 20 and 40 miles events from Mrs B. Lanskey, 6 Shelton Court, 30 London Road SLOUGH SL3 7JQ.

**Sunday 19 May**

**Surrey Woods**

A joint 19 miles walk with the London Group. Start at Witley station at 09.45. Pub lunch or bring your own. It could be a large party so it may be a good idea to bring your own.

**Sunday 16 June**

**Wellbeding Wander**

20 miles from car park at GR 870 261 Landranger 186. Pub stop for lunch. More details from Peter Bull. Tel : 01344 842508

**Wednesday 19 June**

**Midsummer Evening Walk**

Barbara Blatchford will be leading this walk from her home at 49 Minstrel Gardens in deepest Southton. (GR189 681). Start at 7 p.m. Please give her a call if you intend to take part. Her telephone number is 0181 390 5957.

**Sunday 28 July**

**Downton Proving Walk.**

This could be a linear walk with transport back to the start. Details have yet to be finalised but distance will be about 20 - not 100! Contacts are John Lay and Mervyn Harvey after 2nd April 1996. Telephone numbers are :- John : 01932 346956, Mervyn : 01483 417973.

**Sunday 11 August**

**Molly's Meander**

20 miles with a pub lunch. Start 9am at the car park on A7 in Hindhead. GR. 890 358. More details from Molly Groundsell. Tel : 01483 762843.

**Sunday 29 September**

**Dunsfold Kanner**

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

### Report : Virginia Water Social Walk : 19 November

At 9am a posse of peripatetic gentlefolk departed the Bourse car park and headed for the nearby undergrowth, a habitat they frequently descend upon and dwell in on Sunday mornings. The party, some 30 strong, was soon strung out along the jungly bank of the Bourne stream, members at the front being led by Gillian Bull, our leader for the day; those at the back being urged on by Mr Peter Bull. Unfortunately within the first mile of the day the party split in two with 17 members in the rear making their own route through a reedy valley. Retracing their steps they soon found they had been deserted by their leader and wended their own way to the entrance of Windsor Great Park. Some thoughts were entertained that our leader had deliberately lost half the party so as to save face with the publican at lunch time who had been advised there would be 15 for lunch. The 'rear party' found a new leader in Mr Peter Bull, an authority on arctic travelling and survival, on whom we could rely to take us safely to our lunchtime licensee. However, within a short time and after cutting off a corner or two the front party hove into sight and amid much embracing we were one again. The weather was superb and remained so all day. Autumnal colours and tints among the trees, the serene and reflective surfaces of the lakes, and ponds, and the clear blue skies allied to a fresh air made it a perfect walking day. Amongst the party we found some from the London Group, some new young faces, the usual collection of well known faces from Surrey, etc. and a couple of intrepid, mountaineering types we haven't seen for a while. At 11.51am, the writer and one other marched odd at speed to reach the appointed Inn and secure places for the emouage. They were only moderately successful in their task as can be confirmed by those who gazed longingly through the pub window at the lucky ones

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inside. At 1.30 we were abruptly discharged to the cold pavement outside. One steadfast fellow decided to stay in the bar and so was left with some sadness by those who did not have the fortitude to ignore the order to leave. Back into the Park and we became part of the Sunday afternoon walking fraternity, the good weather had brought out many idlers and strollers. Our leader pointed out where a vandal had removed many oak trees leaving a large area of unsightly mud churned soil. Later we admired the view of the sun now low on the horizon glowing through the trees over the darkening waters. After passing the totem pole a straight and fast course was ploughed back to the car park where some departed for their own home comforts whilst 15 partook of excellent refreshments provided by Peter and Gillian at their house. All of us were very pleased and grateful for their kindness in providing the refreshments and opening their house to us. Finally a poor fellow prone to writing odd odes was induced to read a recent lyrical example and was warmly applauded by his fans.

*Harry E. Bishop*

Subscriptions for 1996 are now due. If you have not paid please send the enclosed slip with £1 to Reg Chapman.

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across open hillsides and through a wood for an early lunch at the Kings Head where there was a tropical bird in a tree. It must have been a lady parakeet because it chattered all through our lunch. The afternoon section may have been shorter but after the good lunch it seemed longer. The day was hot and the ground was drying out under a clear sky. Soon the lovely flanks of Sugar Loaf were behind us and we were down to the cars. A quick change and we set off in convoy to Dan and Jean for a delicious afternoon tea, the best way to end a very good weekend. For the statisticians, there were 13 on the walks, each walk was 13 miles and we had 13 mm of rain!

*Peter Bull*



### Treasurer Reports Healthy Finances at AGM

Sue Boyman in presenting the financial report to the AGM held on 18 January in the Prince of Wales in Shere, said income had comfortably exceeded expenditure to produce a surplus of about £900.

Subscriptions will stay at £1 for yet another year and it is not unlikely that the entrance fees for some of the Surrey challenge events in 1996 will remain the same or be reduced.

All of the Officers were re-elected; Keith Chesterton as Chairman, Sue Boyman as Treasurer and Brian Haigh as Secretary. Reg Chapman is continuing as Membership Secretary and Barry Harrison as Auditor.

One item of particular interest to members is that it was decided to produce a new Surrey Group logo for use on tee and sweat shirts. Authority for the design has been given to Torry Youngs and Janet Chapman. From the discussion during the meeting it is likely to include an image of the tower on Leith Hill and the words 'Surrey Group' and 'LDWA'.

#### How Many Surreys?

In response to my question in the last Newsletter asking how many tops there are in Surrey over 500 feet I have had a reply from Keith Chesterton claiming there are 40. (*In deference to metrication he has identified all those above 150m - 492 feet*). Each top has a drop of at least 10m all around it.

He has grouped the tops into seven groups :-

- A. Leith Hill - 9.
- B. Haslemere - 5.
- C. East Surrey - 7.
- D. Buckland - 6.
- E. Newlands Corner - 4.
- F. Hascombe - 6.
- G. Hogs Back - 3.

Please let me know if you think there are more - or less. Copies of the list are available from Keith. *Please send SAE.*