

**Surrey Group
NEWSLETTER**

June 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 : Milford Muckup : Sunday 3 March 1996

Twenty one gathered at Milford station on a rather dull day for the start of this walk. As I waited I thought the title for the walk would make a good name for a challenge event. Indeed, once the walk started, I thought I had entered a challenge event! Sandra, our leader, went off at a good speed perhaps due to 'pacemaker' Jim in front!

The route took us via Hambledon and Dunsfold to Hascombe Hill from where we had wonderful views of the Surrey countryside. Apart from a light drizzle mid morning the day was dry and the temperature ideal for walking. The paths were muddy in places as was expected after the recent wet weather. Lunch was taken at Hascombe in the conservatory of the White Horse, a place which suited us very well. Most of us enjoyed generously filled baps or bowls of home-made soup with crusty bread.

After Hascombe the route followed part of the Greensand Way. At Thornecombe Street we suddenly realised Jim's daughter, Shirley, was no longer with us after taking a comfort stop. After waiting a while during which we were entertained by observing the efforts of some competitors in a One Day Horse Trial event it was decided the group would continue and Jim would retrace our steps, hopefully to find her.

Before long we reached Busbridge where we walked through the very pretty churchyard and saw the grave of the gardener Gertrude Jekyll (1845-1932). She was laid to rest beside three other members of her family, Sir Herbert (1846-1932), Agnes (1860-1937), and Francis Walter (1882-1965). All around the church snowdrops were in flower and the daffodils were in full bud heralding the arrival of spring.

In the lane opposite the church was another surprise awaiting us - Elizabeth's Cake Shop! Sandra had organised her husband and
continued on next page

daughter to provide teas, coffees, and cake for everyone. Elizabeth obviously enjoyed serving us. We all hope she will gain another Brownie badge for her excellent efforts. Reluctantly we left the cake shop and returned to Milford station. There was Jim and all well that ends well. He had not found Shirley but she had phoned her husband, had got a lift and was home safely.

Congratulations to Sandra and John for an excellent walk, lovely views, interesting events on route and the refreshments. I am sure everyone enjoyed the day. I, for one, am eagerly looking forward to your next Muckup!

Avril Stapleton

Thank you to Diane Scalfie

Verbal reports received about the South Downs Stroll on Sunday, 31 March 1996, indicate that the party of about 20 enjoyed both the route selected by Diane and the good weather which was ideal for walking. No one was lost; fortunately not a common feature of Surrey Group social walks, and everybody safely returned to the starting point.

New Logo - and Shirts - For the Surrey Group

Many thanks to Tony Youngs for designing the new logo for the Surrey Group following the discussion at the AGM in January. The new logo which is now available on tee, polo and sweat shirts is a simple design. Leith Hill in the middle with LDWA above and SURREY below. The shirts, only in green at this stage, are available from Janet; price £9, £9.50 and £10.

PROGRAMME

Sunday 16 June

Wellbeing Wander

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

Wednesday 19 June

Midsummer Evening Walk

Barbara Blatchford will be leading this walk from her home at 49 Minotrel Gardens in deepest Sarbiton. (GR189 681). Start at 7 p.m. Please give her a call if you intend to take part. Her telephone number is 0181 390 3957.

Sunday 7 July

Tanners Marathon

20 miles starting at 09.00 from the Leatherhead Football Club next to the Leisure Centre. If you missed the Winter Tanners here is another chance to enjoy the superb route devised by John Westcott but be warned : it is unlikely the weather will be better than it was in January!

Entry forms are available from Alan Virgo, The Three Sycamores, French Drive, Thorncy. PETERBOROUGH PE6 0PH.

Sunday 28 July

Dowsman Proving Walk.

This will be a circular walk from the car park at the rear of the Agricultural College at Plumpton, GR 358 136. Start 9am, distance will be about 20 miles, not 100! Pub stop for lunch. Contact is John Lay Tel : 01932 346596.

Sunday 11 August

Molly's Meander

20 miles with a pub lunch. Start 9am at the car park on A3 in Hindhead, GR 890 358. More details from Molly Groundsell; Tel : 01483 762843.

Thursday 29 August

Planning Meeting

7.30 for 8.00pm in the Prince of Wales, Shere. A slide show by John Lay will follow the business discussion.

Sunday 29 September

Dunsfold Kanter

12 or 20 miles from the Village Hall in Dunsfold. Start 9.15am. More details from Brian Haigh; see to 17 Lower Edgeborough Road, GUILDFORD, Surrey GU1 2DX.

Fri/Sat/Sun 4/5/6 October

Wales Weekend

The plan is to travel on Friday and walk on Saturday and Sunday. Once again Dan Hadfield, one time Chairman of our Group who now lives in Wales, will be our guide. This is one of the high spots of our programme: good walking and good food. Names asap to Molly Groundsill, tel. 01483 842508.

Saturday 2 November

Ashtead Afternoon Walk

A half-day walk from the home of Dave and Pat Challenger, 44 Agates Lane, ASHTEAD. Please advise Dave in advance, tel : 01372 277138

Saturday 7 December

Christmas Dinner

The dinner, once again, will be at the Sun Inn in Dunsfold almost opposite the Village Hall. The price, not yet fixed should be about £18. Before the dinner there will be an optional walk starting at 09.00 from the Village Hall, GR 007 362 OS 186. Changing facilities are available. More details are available from Mervyn Harvey, tel : 01483 417973

Sunday 29 December

Hangover Hobble

20 miles from car park at the Recreation Ground in Shere, GR 073 480 OS 187. Pub stop for lunch.

Monday 1 January

Surrey Inns Kanter

20 or 22 miles from St. Catherine's Hall, Chestnut Ave, GUILDFORD, GR 992 485. Entry on day only. £1 (£1.50 for non-members and 50p for u-16s). SAE to Peter Duff, Abbots Corner, Abbots Drive, VIRGINIA WATER, Surrey GU25 4SE.

Report : Surrey Woods : 19 May 1996

Social walks organised by LDWA Groups are open to all LDWA members so when it was noticed that the London Group had organised a walk scheduled to start at Witley at 9.45am it was quickly decided we should support the outing by including it in our programme. Some of the London Group had supported our walks in the past so there was a pleasant air of meeting some new friends again as the early arrivals waited at Witley station. 9.45 came and went - Sunday always is a dodgy day for rail travel - but a few minutes later the London members arrived and the party swelled to 22. Don Bolton of the London Group had done his route checking in advance with the result that the Sun Inn at Dunsfold was found without any difficulty for the lunch stop.

After lunch Hascombe Hill was negotiated making use of a path which was new to Dave Challenger - *and there cannot be many of those, well done, Don* - before continuing through Hambledon and skirting the Arboretum at Winkworth to return to the start at Witley. The weather could have been better, the blustery showers were a bit of a nuisance, but all were agreed they had had a good day out in the Surrey Woods.

Brian Haigh

Another Invitation to Walk with the London Group

The London Group have organised another walk which starts not too far away from our patch. This time it is on 20 October and will start at 10.05am from the railway station (BR permitting!) in Petersfield. Don Bolton has indicated he would be pleased to welcome any members of the Surrey Group who would like to join the walk. It is expected to be about 18 miles with a pub stop for lunch in East Meon.

Yorkshire Dales Hundred : 25-27 May 1996

The reputation of the Surrey Group as the best provider of breakfasts for the annual Hundreds once again resulted in members of our Group, led by that indefatigable Chief Cook and Organiser, Janet Chapman manning the breakfast stop on the recent Hundred. Situated at Deer Youth Hostel Janet had available all of the facilities of the hostel and, as was to be expected, made good use of them.

As the walkers arrived with 65.6 miles in their legs they received a warm and friendly welcome and were then helped to a seat at a table in the dining room. Next they were asked to order - there is no queuing when Janet is running the breakfast stop - and, a few minutes later, their choice of breakfast was placed in front of them to enjoy at their leisure. I enjoyed serving breakfast to Mike Bennison who, at this stage, was not the last to arrive.

The breakfast stop is also important to the walkers because it is the Check Point to which they can send a change of clothes to wear for the remaining third of the walk. The psychological benefits of a change of clothes can make all the difference between finishing or retiring during the remainder of the walk which, for many, will involve walking during a second night.

The volunteers from the Surrey Group included :

Janet and Reg Chapman, Sue and Jeff Boyman, Gillian Bull, Elaine and Peter Edwards, Bobby Andrews, Molly Groundsell, Barbara Blatchford, Peter Short, Sylvia Steer, Martin Tringham, Brian Haigh, John Lay, Peter Waterhouse, Ann O'Hara, Jan Edwards. Sylvia Nagarkar, Don Bolton, Alan Carham and Vala West of the London Group also made a huge contribution to the success of the Check Point.

Downsman Hundred : May 1997

Janet Chapman reported to the Planning meeting held on Thursday, 2 May that the finish for the Downsman Hundred from Winchester to Eastbourne will be at Willingdean school not at St. Bedes at the end of the promenade below Beachy Head. St. Bedes was used for the 1986 Downsman, and those who have done the Seven Sisters marathon will be familiar with it as the finish for the SSM. It was decided however that more space will be needed for a Hundred event and Willingdean will meet these requirements.

Good progress has been made identifying locations for Check Points along the route and in obtaining promises of help from other LDWA groups to man them. Some of our own members have volunteered to help but more are needed, particularly for the start and finish. If you can spare a few hours please contact Roger Moss, tel : 01252 659553. He will be pleased to answer questions about locations, amount of time, and nature of duties to be performed.

DOWNSMAN HUNDRED : MARSHALS WALK

The Marshals Walk will be held on 3/4 May 1997. In keeping with the practice of other LDWA Groups which have organised Hundreds in recent years Surrey Group members are expected to take part in the Marshals walk rather than take up places in the main walk. To simplify the arrangements for the Marshals Walk it has been decided it will be for walkers only. For more information please contact Roger Moss.

Dunsfold Kanter : Organiser Wanted for 1997

Anyone interested in organising this event in 1997 and beyond should contact Brian Haigh. The 1996 event could then be used as an opportunity to hand over information. Use of grid references results in only one Check Point which operates as the Start and the Finish.

Report : Punchbowl Marathon 4 February 1996

Despite rough weather before and after, it was a beautiful crisp day, reasonably dry underfoot and ideal for walking. The result was some very fast times with the first home, Chris Farning, taking only 3 hours and 50 minutes, 40 minutes less than for the same course in 1995. There were three separate start times to allow the faster people to start later and prevent checkpoints having to be open too long, but some entrants still started too early. We'll be a lot stricter on the Downsman!

246 entered the event (66 on the day), and there were 224 finishers, only four were outside the official time limit of 10 hours. The finish marshals were left wondering about two of the starters who, it turned out, had gone home for a meal without checking in at the finish. Please do check in before leaving - do think of the organisers' worries.

The route description had been titivated a little since last year with the help of Ann Sayer who made sure any ambiguities of the organiser were removed. As a result most participants had a trouble free event. Surrey Group members (and others) were very good in helping, especially the group - John Lay, Les Maple, Gillian Bull, Richard Ireson and Margaret Steer - which cheerfully ran the Gibbet Hill checkpoint in a tent in spite of the risk of frostbite. Reg Chapman took the the entries, bought the food, organised it and the equipment and kept me going! One mishap was the absence of any cooking pots for the baked beans at the finish. The Hall Secretary rescued us by providing one of her own.

We have a complete set of photographs taken on the walk by Michael Bennison, who still beat 8 hours. Ask me if you would like to see them. Next year the route is likely to be the same with the possible difference of avoiding a checkpoint on Gibbet Hill.

Keith Chesterton