

Surrey Group
NEWSLETTER

June 1997

Group Officers

- Chairman.** **Keith Chesterton**
Firle, Chestnut Avenue,
GUILDFORD, Surrey, GU2 5HD
Tel : 01483 563392
- Secretary
and Editor.** **Brian Haigh**
17 Lower Edgeborough Road
GUILDFORD, Surrey, GU1 2DX
Tel : 01483 303020
- Treasurer.** **Sue Boyman**
64 Surrey Grove,
SUTTON, Surrey, SM1 3PN
Tel : 0181 715 3179
- Membership.** **Reg Chapman**
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 Editor before the end of August for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Preferably they should be typed but legible manuscript will be gladly accepted.

Our walkers today were Elaine (our leader) and Peter Edwards, Molly Groundsell, Gillian Bull, Margaret Ackers, Ron Brown, his son and Brian a friend. Sandra James and John her walking companion, Dave Challenger, John Lay and the writer.

We set off through Barton Park, noting the new building works and inspecting the little church in the grounds. The weather was dry at first but after an hour or so, rain came on and stayed with us for the rest of the morning in various strengths. Hoods were up and conversation limited. We left the low lands and on an ever rising, slippery, muddy and messy track ascended the South downs eventually reaching the top of Bignor Hill. We stayed on top through Earham Wood, Open Winkins and Eastdean Park cutting around Goodwood Racecourse on a not so glorious day and thence into Charlton. We were soaked. Fortunately the pub had a big fire and into its large inglenook, Sandra, Molly and the writer were able to commandeer space and dry ourselves out.

Rij and Janet met us there route checking part of the Downsian 100. The French onion soup with bread was delicious but too soon we were parted from our fire and taken outside where we found the rain had stopped, small patches of blue sky now discernible. But it didn't last and now back on forestry tracks we were soon slipping and sliding again to meet a band of Girl Guides unsure where they were. They followed us down to Graffam, having used Ron's phone to talk to their HQ. Next we struggled across very wet countryside to Duncton, the rain coming in fits and starts, and our feet wandering from one quagmire to another. None too soon we reached Barton Park and so back to our start point.

If the weather had been bright and sunny this would have been a lovely day out but as it was, Southern England in the track, mud and rain can be quite miserable. However this was more than offset by the natural happiness of the madcap souls who pursue the pastime of footpath walking. Many thanks to Elaine, the weather was not your fault.

Harry E. Bishop.

The popularity of these mid-week walks now rising, a dozen weekday wanderers appeared at Witley on the day. Some had even taken time off work! Ann Sayer, Dave Challenger, Brian Haigh, Mollie and Peter Groundsell, Richard Ireson, Gillian Ball, Shirley Robertson, Margaret Ackers and a strong clerical contingent of Bishops, Harry, Michael, and Barry, appeared, gilt for what the day held.

By tracks well known to Surrey events aficionados we made our way to Witley Station on a clear bright blue day, shortly passing a walking stick factory and, by a sinuous path through a copse to grassland folds, sheep and another wood to the outskirts of Chiddingfold. We came out onto the Green where the writer, who happened to be the leader for the day, pointed out a suitable coffee shop but no permission to stop being forthcoming we continued up Pockford Road (previously known as Vann Lane) and by further field and woodland tracks, hopelessly muddy but under a blue sky we made our way through Botany Bay, a large area of forestry. Here we did stop and had a comfortable 'cleverness'. More wet and muddy woodland tracks, a bit of tarmac and four big fields led us to the Shillingloe Golf Course and, not long after, the Ram's Nest Inn. The day still bright, a big fire in the grate, warmth, refreshments for the inner self and twenty other ramblers in the pub led to a most hospitable lunch hour. Brian, of some gourmet fame after our first two mid-week walks, surrendered this position to Richard who had Wild Boar for lunch.

Beating a retreat from the pub under cloudier skies we passed Gosnold Farm and took the tarmac and more muddy field tracks back to Chiddingfold. Once again the coffee/tea shop was not visited despite desperate pleas from the leader. Vann lane was still under its new name, and Shirley and Margaret at a first clip led us to North Bridge. We dived into the woods, the wettest of the day, and came to a grinding halt at the next bridge where the exhausted leader had a rest and recuperation period for himself and those in a similar condition. A long hard trek through the woods, a climb to Hambledon Common and another muddy path through the woods led us back to Witley just before the rain commenced.

Harry E. Bishop

PROGR

Thursday 12 June

New Alresford Amble

About 15 miles. Start at 10.00 a.m. from layby on North overingeway of A31 GR 564321. Pub stop for lunch. Leader: Joan Wrenn, tel: 01483 538685.

Wednesday 25 June

Midsummer Walk.

Evening walk led by Barbara Blatchford, tel: 0181 390 5957. Start at 7.00pm from 49 Mistle Gardens, Surbiton, GR 189 681. Please advise Barbara if you intend to take part.

Thursday 24 July

Tilburston Terrace

About 17 miles. Start 9.30 a.m. from car park in Rabies Heat Road, Tilburston Hill, 1 mile south of Godstone, GR 350501. Lunch at The Royal Oak, Staffhurst Wood. Leader Dave Challenger. Tel: 01372 277138.

Sunday August 10

Linchmere Loop

About 20 miles. Start at 9.00am from car park on south side of Haslemere railway station, GR 898 330. Pub stop for lunch. Leader: John Lay, tel: 01932 346596.

Tuesday September 9

Planning Meeting

Start 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. in Prince of Wales, Shore. Slide show to follow.

Thursday September 11

Commons Clump

About 17 miles. Start at 9.30 a.m. from Cobham High Street car park - Sainsbury's side of village centre - GR 974619. Pub stop for lunch. Leader John Westcott, tel: 01276 856672.

Sunday 28 September

Dunsfold Kanter

12 or 20 miles from the Village Hall in Dunsfold. Start 9.15am. SAE for details to Brian Haigh, 17 Lower Edgeborough Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 2DX.

AMME

Fri/Sat/Sun 10/11/12 October

Wales Weekend

The plan is to travel early on Friday and walk on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
More details from Molly Groundsell, tel: 01483 762843.

Sunday 16 November

A Walk in the Park

20 miles. Start 9.00a.m. in Bourne car park at Virginia Water railway station. Pub stop for lunch. More details from Gillian Bell, tel: 01344 842508.

Thursday 27 November

Dunsfold Diversion

18 miles. Start at 09.30 a.m. from Village hall in Dunsfold. Pub stop for lunch. More details from Brian Leigh, tel: 01483 303020.

Saturday 6 December

Christmas Dinner

Once again at the Sun Inn in Dunsfold almost opposite the Village Hall. The price is expected to be £17. Number is limited to 28 so place your order with Mervyn early to avoid disappointment. Before the dinner there will be an optional walk starting at 9.00am from the Village Hall, GR 007 562, OS 186. Charging facilities are available. More details from Mervyn Harvey, tel: 01483 417973 or 01798 344309.

Thursday 1 January 1998

Surrey Inns Kanter

12 or 20 miles. Start 09.15 - 11.00 a.m. from St. Catherine's Village Hall, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford GR 992 485. Bring map OS 186 or 1:25000 SU84/94, compass pen/pencil and torch. Entry and route details: ONLY ON THE DAY. LDWA members £1.50, non-members £2.00, U-16 50p. Organiser Peter Bull.

Sunday 11 January

Winter Tanners

30 miles from car park in Leatherhead, GR 164 567. SAE for entry form to Reg Chapman, 63 Yockley Close, CAMBERLEY, Surrey, GU15 1QQ.

Report : An Ashdown Amble : Tuesday 12 April 1997

I thought I had retired from leading LDWA social Walks but when one or two Winneke the Pooh fans (some people never grow up) welcomed the suggestion of a mid-week walk in Ashdown Forest, of a distance suitable for the superannuated, I found myself back in the old routine.

Nine of us set out in the sunshine from Broadnose picnic site and made for the Heffalump Trap, the Enchanted Place (known to the Ordnance Survey as Gills Lap) and the memorial to the perpetrators of it all, A A Milne and E H Shepard. We then put away childish things, bagged the highest point of the Forest, Greenwood Gate Clump, and found the Forest's two waterfalls and one of its few pubs, the Foresters Arms at Fairwarp. We had been there a good 20 minutes when we were joined by Don Behon of the London Group and Jim Dummer of ours. They had found the start but had been delayed by heavy traffic. Pity they missed the Enchanted Place.

After lunch, now a party of eleven, we visited the "Airman's Grave", a touching memorial to the crew of a Wellington that came to grief here returning from a sortie to bomb Cologne in July 1941. We then completed the walk returning by way of Nutley Windmill and the ice cream van at Millbrook East car park.

My thanks to those who turned up. It was good to be on a Surrey Group walk once again.

Terry Youngs.

Has Anybody Seen Harry?

Other reports in this newsletter show that Harry is one of our regulars on social walks. Or rather he was until the end of February. Since then little has been seen of him but I can assure his friends this is not a matter for any concern. He has been spending his spare time walking the Penrokershire Coast Path which he followed by completing the Macmillan Way, 235 miles from Oakham in Rutland to Abbotbury in Dorset. Next time he leads a social walk we will have to tie weights to his legs to slow him down!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

21 June 1997 The Downsman 'DO' A Barbecue

Reg and Janet Chapman - the latter well known for her culinary skills on major walking events - invite all Surrey group members, spouses and friends who helped to make the recent Downsman Hundred such a success, to a barbecue on Saturday, 21st June at their home at 63 Yockley Close, Camberley. The event will start at 4 p.m.

If you wish to join the 'do' please advise Janet in advance; her tel. number is 01276 65169. There will be a small charge of £2 per person. If you can bring a bottle that would be appreciated.

Twenty-five Years of the LDWA : Celebratory Dinner

To mark 25 years of the LDWA the Surrey Group has arranged a dinner at the Hartwood Inn Hotel on Saturday 27 September. The President of the LDWA, Sir Johnny Johnson, and his wife will be there. A limited number of places are available at £21 per head. Booking forms can be obtained from Brian Haigh. Please send a SAE.

TEE Shirts for Sale

Janet Chapman - who else? - has a stock of not only Tee Shirts but also Polo Shirts and Sweat Shirts for sale. The shirts, which are in bottle green with the new Surrey Group logo, can be obtained from Janet at the very reasonable prices of :-

Tee shirt £6, Polo shirt £9.50, Sweat shirt £10.

Free Books Available Come and Collect

Margaret Steer, tel. 01276 858342, wishes to give away four feet - yes **FOUR FEET** - of walking books which belonged to Chris. Please telephone her first before calling.

Founders Jubilee Challenge

25 Miles Challenge Walk

To mark 25 years of the LDWA the London Group is organising this event on 26 October 1997 using the Founders Footpaths route devised by Tony Youngs. SAE for entry form to Ann Sayer, 29 Tusckingham Road, Toddington, Middx TW 11 8 AQ

Winter Tanners under New Management

After organising the event for the last four years I have handed over the event to Reg and Janet. Having being involved up to their eyeballs in the Downman Hundred for the last two years they probably needed the task of organising the Winter Tanners to avoid watching too much TV!

Marshals Walk hit by Bad Weather

In strong contrast with the hot weather enjoyed by the starters for the Downman Hundred those who took part in the Marshals event on 3/4 May experienced strong winds and rain. These were particularly noticeable on the stretch which included Bignor Hill. Of the 64 who entered 58 started and 52 finished. Congratulations to Sarny Group members Janet Chapman, Elaine Edwards, Barry Harrison, Ann Sayer and Avril Stapleton who completed the event. Elaine's efforts raised a splendid £1000 for a local hospital. Many thanks also to Reg Chapman, Roger Moss and others for providing help to the walkers.

A Big Thank You to

Molly Groundsell for leading the Galford Boundary social walk on 23 March, to Peter Bull for leading the Paper Harrow Harrow on 13 April, and to Richard Ireson for the Thames Trek on 17 May. All three walks were very much enjoyed by those who turned out. Anyone wishing to lead a walk should contact the Secretary before the next Planning meeting on 9 September. Volunteers will be welcome.

April Strider Issued in Second Half of May

Whatever is said about Steve Clark's period as Editor of Strider none can say he has not been consistent.