

Surrey Group
NEWSLETTER
October 1998

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Items for the Newsletter

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

Twenty five years ago the LDWA had its first ever 'group walk'. On 17/18 March 1973 twelve members, mostly from Surrey, completed the Surrey Hills Walk across Surrey from Frensham Ponds to the Ship Inn at Tatsfield. Four weeks later 13 started and 17 finished the same walk in the reverse direction. Both walks were done under 18 hours and four people did both walks - Ian Addison, Doug Sudbury, Chris Steer, and me.

I thought it would be a good idea to repeat the walk twenty five years on and have another go at walking it myself. A number of people expressed interest including two on the previous day but in the end only three joined me at the start. And all were women - Margaret Ackers, Shirley Roberts, and Ann Sayer. Two of us arrived by car, the other two by bus from Croydon and just as we were about to set off there was a heavy thunderstorm. We made good use of the bus shelter until the lightning and rain stopped and then we set off half an hour late, past some very large paddles on the road, and onto a footpath. A mile later we joined the NDW and were to stay on it for the next forty miles. In 1973 some of the NDW did not exist in East Surrey producing more road walking and a few less hills. Our first stop, after 12 miles, was at the Feathers in Merstham where we had a good meal. In 1973 the decor had been Victorian red plush but no longer. As usual there was disbelief in the pub at what we were trying to do. Two hours after leaving The Feathers it was dark enough to put on our torches and it was soon after this that Ann, when dodging under a low branch, hit her head sufficiently hard to draw blood. Fortunately she was able to continue and before long we reached the foot of Box Hill after a dodgy descent on the slippery chalk. At Rykas (22.5 miles) the bikers pull-up we had a good rest and some food.

As we climbed up to Ransmore and then on to Newlands Corner the pace slowed not least because of my collection of blisters produced by soaking wet feet. Not wishing to delay them I handed over my front door key so they could eat the sandwiches prepared by my wife, Jill. The plan had been to arrive in the middle of the night but it was 6.00am when they arrived somewhat to the surprise of Jill who came down to find I had been left behind!

Meanwhile the others pressed on, only for Shirley to give it best at Pottersham. Ann and Margaret then used my rough notes for the last section to Frensham Ponds. I admit they could have been better but they had been intended only for

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LDWA Constitution

The saga rolls on. Conscious no doubt of the way Local Groups were kept in the dark last year Les Maple, the Hon. Secretary of the National Committee, is now doing his best to keep us informed of developments more or less as they happen.

In a letter dated 11 July Les advised Local Groups a draft of the Model Constitution has been received from the solicitors and has been circulated to members of the National Committee for comments. Likewise for the By-laws.

N.B. Guidelines for Events and Guidelines for Hundreds will not be covered by the new By-laws. As at now the new company - LDWA Limited - has yet to be registered. When it is the next step will be to transfer assets, liabilities and members to it. An ideal time for the transfer operation could be the end of the financial year. The timetable for all this is not yet fixed but it is expected that the new Constitution will apply sometime before the next AGM is held. It follows that any Motions/Proposals will need to be lodged with the Secretary at least 12 weeks prior to the AGM. According to a conversation I had with Les at the start of the Andredswald Circuit on 9 August amendments can be accepted on the day. Finally, the question of postal voting is still under consideration.

Brian Hoagh

PS The National AGM in March 1998 was persuaded by the National Committee to give full authority to introduce the changes by the argument that it would not make any difference to the Local Groups. I have to say I remain more than a little sceptical about this promise. Time will tell.

Walking in France

Once you have walked in France on the superb network of Grand Randonnees there is a strong desire to go again. Such is the case for John Lay who, in addition to other walks on the other side of the Channel, recently completed the GR5 from Lake Geneva to Nice. He is now thinking of his next visit to take place in September 1999 but has yet to decide the details. If anyone would care to join him he would welcome a call to discuss possible routes. His telephone number is 01952 346596.

Checkpoint 4 - Manned by Surrey and London.

Thanks to all who made the journey to Derbyshire to staff the CP. Some did the return trip on the same day; others made a weekend of it and walked some of the last sections of the route. Their enthusiasm was dampened somewhat when they were overtaken by eventists who had been walking for twenty four hours plus! Special thanks were due to Les Maple for walking with Peter Saunders and to Molly Groundsell for accompanying Elaine Edwards and Avril Stapleton.

N.B. Contrary to belief the "knickerless lady" referred to in Strider was not Avril. OK then. Who was it? Ed.

Bobby Andrews, Roy and Olive Burnsley, Don Bolton, Deidre Connor, Paul Lawrence, John Lay, Ian Mcloed, Ann O'Mara, Sylvia Nagarkar, Mary Perry, Ann Sayer, Peter and Betty Waterhouse, and John Westcott all deserve grateful thanks for their sterling work in the CP. Congratulations to all Surrey and London Group walkers who participated in the event. Completions were made by : Janet Chapman, Ken Fancott, Barry Harrison, Len Wilson, Bill Thompson, and Avril Stapleton. I am sure this report has whetted your appetite for checkpointing. Volunteers are needed for the 1999 Durham Dales 100 mentioned below.

Janet Chapman

Durham Dales 100

29-31 May 1999

The Northumbria Group has allocated us CP 10b, the breakfast stop at 66 miles. The CP is in the Wearhead Village Hall, Landranger 92, GR 858 395. The opening times are from 20.30 Saturday to 16.30 Sunday. Sleeping accommodation for Sunday is available at the walk HQ, Wolsingham Community School, Bishop Auckland, GR 072 375.

A shift rota system will be operated. I anticipate we will need approx. twenty bodies. With the resources of both Surrey and London to draw on I am confident we will meet this requirement. Northumbria have said they will pay a £65 expense allowance to both Surrey and London. Please let me know if you are interested in helping. Don't forget we have a reputation to maintain.

Janet Chapman

tel/fax 01276 65169

PROG

Thursday 15 October

Hampshire Villages

17 miles. Start 9.30am Selbourne at bottom of Zig Zags, GR 743 332. Pub stop for lunch. Leader Keith Chesteron tel. : 01483 563792.

Saturday 24 October

An Afternoon Around Ashstead

About 12 miles followed by refreshments at the home of Dave and Pat Challenger, 44 Agates Lane, ASHTEAD (GR 178 577). Start 12.30. Please advise Dave in advance if you intend to go, tel. 01372 277138.

Thursday 12 November

In Roman Footsteps

17 miles. Start 9.30 am in car park on Bignor Hill GR 973 129. Pub stop for lunch. Leader Brian Haigh tel. : 01483 303020.

Sunday 22 November

Gillian's Jaunt

20 miles. Start at 9.00am from Bourne car park at Virginia Water railway station, GR 001 677. Pub stop for lunch. Leader Gillian Bull, tel. 01344 842508.

Saturday 5 December

Christmas Walk & Dinner

Walk starts at 8.45am from Village Hall. Dinner at 7.15pm in Sun Inn, Dunsfold. Organiser Mervyn Harvey, tel. : 01798 344309

Tuesday 15 December

A Richmond Round

16 miles. Royal Parks and Palaces. Start 09.30 Diana Fountain car park in Busby Park - GR 160 693 - unobtrusive entry - turn off A308 near Zebra crossing. Pub stop for lunch. Leader Ann Sayer tel : 0181 977 9495.

Friday 1 January 1999

Surrey Inns Kaster

20 or 12 miles from Christchurch Hall, Virginia Water near station. GR 999 679. Start 9am to 11am. Bring OS 176, compass and pencil. Map reading.

RAMME

skills essential. SAE Peter Bull, Abbots Corner, Abbots Drive, Virginia Water, GU25 4SE.

Sunday 10 January

Winter Tanners

30 miles. Start and finish in Leatherhead. Minimal support. For more details and entry form SAE to Ann Sayer, 29 Twickenham Road, TEDDINGTON, Middx. TW11 8AQ.

Tuesday 19 January

AGM

7.30 for 8.00pm at Percy Arms, Chilworth, GR 031 473. Slide show from Gillian Bull to follow.

Sunday 7 February

Punchbowl Marathon

30 miles. Start and finish at Witley. Same route as 1998. For more details and entry forms send see to Ann Sayer, 29 Twickenham Road, TEDDINGTON, Middx. TW11 8AQ. Offers to marshal would be welcome.

Thursday 11 February

Leith Hill Loiter

17 miles. Start 9.30am from car park at Starvills corner, GR 130 433. Pub stop for lunch. Leader Dave Challenger, tel. 01372 277138.

Saturday 20 February

Pottenham Plod

About 18 miles. Start 8.30am from picnic area on south side of A31, GR 927 483. Pub stop for lunch in Woolpack, Elstead. Leader John Lay, tel. 01932 346596.

Thursday 18 March

Albury Amble

15 miles. Start 9.30am from the Recreation Ground car park in Shere, GR 073 479. Pub stop for lunch in the Villagers, Blackheath. Route will include the old church and the Pigeon House. A walk not to be missed. Leader Tony Youngs, tel. 01737 778615.

It was an excellent walk. Twelve members - existing and potential - left the Waggoners Wells car park with our leader Margaret Ackers to walk 21 miles on a day which was dry but not too hot. Just right in fact. After dropping into the Panchbowl we climbed to Gibbet Hill before heading off to Haslemere for our pub stop for lunch in the White Horse arriving at 12.15, the exact time predicted by Margaret. It was a good choice. One hour later we were on our way again. After a thankfully level stretch in which to digest our lunch we were led up Blackdown, the highest point in Sussex and then back across the A3 to Waggoners Wells once again. This was the first walk led by Margaret and all were agreed she did a super job. Not once did she lose the way and several times she shared information about points of interest, thus adding to our enjoyment. This is how a walk should be led. Well done Margaret.

Brian Haigh

Fancy a Tee Shirt for Christmas?

Janet - yes THE Janet - has a stock of Surrey Group Tee shirts and sweat shirts for sale. You can have any colour you like as long as it is dark green complete with the Surrey Group logo, Leith Hill tower. Tee shirts are £6, sweats £10. Janet's telephone number is 01276 65169.

Report : Dunsfold Kanter

27 September 1998

Favourable comments about the facilities available in the club house of the George V playing fields prompted me to use the same venue again this year. Sadly entries were down on last year undoubtedly due to heavy rain during the previous twenty four hours and a less than favourable forecast for the day. However the forecasters got it wrong - and not for the first time ! There was no rain until well after all had finished. Instead there was plenty of sunshine. Some even complained it was too hot.

The route brought into play the climb up to Hydens Hall but as it was early in the day everybody had sufficient wind to complete the course. Many thanks to Pat and Dave Challenger, and my daughter Julia for their help on the day.

Brian Haigh

Wanted - One Web Master.

It was proposed in the Planning meeting on 22 September that we should have a Web Site which would supply, via the Internet, information about our activities. The Committee has agreed to examine the proposal and report to the AGM in January. One requirement, if the proposal is accepted, will be a Web Master who would be responsible for running the site. Anyone who would like to have a go should contact the Secretary ASAP.

Storage Space Needed

Do you have an empty garage? Or space in a shed at the bottom of your garden? If so you could be just the person we need. Janet and Reg are looking for help in storing the various items used on the events we organise each year. If you think you could help please contact Janet or Reg, tel. 01276 651669.

Many Thanks -----

----- to Molly Groundsell and Peter Bull for leading the Winkworth Wander on 11 June; to Louise and Tony Cartwright for the Midsummer Walk on 23 June; and to Elaine Edwards for the Goodwood Gyraton on 19 July. Walk Leaders are always needed. Please contact the Secretary if you would like to share one of your favorite walks with members of the Group.

The Punchbowl Marathon Marshals Walk will take place on Saturday 23 January 1999. For more details contact Keith Chesterton tel. 01483 563392.

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my own guidance. Jill went to meet them and after almost giving up hope of finding them she found them at about 12 noon. They had taken 20 hours and 30 minutes for the fifty mile crossing.
My heartiest congratulations to them both and also well done to Shirley.

Keith Chesterton

PS Ann's head soon recovered - my feet took rather longer. Fortunately it did not stop my holiday in Peru.