

Surrey Group
NEWSLETTER

February 1998

Group Officers

- Chairman.** **Ann Sayer**
29 Twickenham Road,
TEDDINGTON, Middx, TW11 8AQ
Tel : 0181 977 9495
- 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 April for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Preferably they should be typed but legible manuscript will be gladly accepted.

At 10.30 about 20 South East soffies descended on Valerie's cafe in Abergavenny on the 10th October to meet their leaders for the weekend. Dan Hadfield (known to his friends as "Mountain Man") would be leading the longer walks and his wife Jean would be leading the scrabble party on shorter walks interspersed with tea stops.

Dan had decided to re-visit the Brecons with a gentle ascent of Sugar Loaf and so we left Abergavenny with loziness in our step, or at least, the hard men like Dave Challenger, Keith Chesterton and Dan, did. It was a beautiful clear day, albeit with a strong wind, wich gave us our first sight of the Black Mountains and the Brecon Beacons. The day finished with more coffee and cakes in Abergavenny before some of us lost our way trying to find our accommodation at "The Wexall". Janet Chapman and I were the last to arrive having circled Abergavenny twice and stopped in a lay-by to take a compass bearing before finding the A465. *(That's our story and we are sticking to it).*

Saturday dawned fine and clear! It should have but no it didn't, it was throwing it down. Bobbie Andrews, who had shown her speed on the Friday, used her years of wisdom and opted for the shorter walk of historic interest led by Jean. The rest of the party, those without brains, left Llanbedr at 10.00am, a half hour late because Jim Dunster was delayed by Shirley Robertson and Margaret Ackers on the way to the meeting place. *(Jim's words not mine!).*

The walk of 17 miles (felt like 27) on the Black Mountain ridge, and in the valleys was, to say the least, wet but a few breaks in the cloud gave us some memorable moments and splendid views. A good spot was found for lunch in a cow shed, complete with wall to wall hay and stone seats. Gillian Bell, who always carries Courvoisier for antiseptic purposes, and John Lay proceeded to get drunk in the corner. The rest of us could only watch with envy, but then some men have the charms and some don't.

A good day's walk concluded with three circuits of Table Mountain, just outside Crickhowell, in swirling mist and rain. Dan's words of confidence were always 'the cats are just around the corner'. When finally spotted, there was a loud cry of 'there they are' and everyone broke into a sprint, the winner with some elbowing and shoving being Gillian Bell - or was it Molly Groundwell, or Elaine Edwards? The scrabble wimp, myself, Richard Ineson, Peter Edwards, and Jim, strolled in five minutes later. *cont. on page 7.*

Report : A Walk in the Park

16 November 1997

On a pleasant autumnal day, Gillian Bull led us on an exploration of a part of Surrey less well trodden by the Group. From the start, well hidden behind the railway station, the route soon took us past a castle with two security men on guard. We were told it was owned by a Brno prince for use as a changing room when he flies in to Heathrow prior to moving on to London. Soon we had a very pleasant walk through Windsor Park and were led to a first rate pub for the lunch stop. Despite being in the tourist heart-land of Windsor the Court Jester was so reasonably - and surprisingly - priced that most of us had the full roast instead of sandwiches. I should add however that this was the second pub we visited. Earlier we had been led into another pub and, after being given a guided tour through it, we left without touching a drop! Is this a record? The twenty mile walk finished in the dusk, going through the Wentworth estate where we were informed that the part in which we were walking only had small houses. On seeing these mansions, we speculated on what would a large house look like in this area! It was a good day out. Thanks Gillian. And we have to admit we enjoyed the absence of hills.

Keith Chesterton.

Report : 24th Surrey Ians Kaster

1 January 1998

Due to a fire at St. Catherine's Hall, GUILDFORD, this year the Kaster started from Christ Church Hall, Virginia Water which was fortunate because the weather was far better there than in most of the country. 130 entered the event, two withdrew after realising what they had to do, and just one retired. 73 followed the 12.5 mile course via Three Green, Virginia Water lake and Wentworth, and the remaining 54 entrants followed the extended route across Chobham Common to the church.

Times for the short course were 2hrs. 34min. to 5hrs. 25min., and from 3hrs. to 5hrs. 28min. for the longer course. Judging by comments at the end of the event, everyone enjoyed the event and stayed dry. We were very short of helpers so a special thanks to Gillian Bull and John Lay for working all day; also to Reg Chapman for tea morning, and Jon Moore for the afternoon. Thanks also to Ann Sayer and Les Maple for proving the routes.

Peter Bull

PROG

Sunday 15 February

Shamley Shambles

20 miles. Start at 9.30 am from Guildford railway station. Pub stop for lunch in Shamley Green. Leader : Don Bolton, tel. 01483 823429.

Saturday/Sunday 28 February/1 March **Surrey Summits Marshals Walk**

62.5 miles. For more information contact Roger Moss, tel. 01252 659553.

Thursday 12 March

Downs Dooladille

19 miles. 9.30 am start in car park at Newlands Corner on A25 GR 044491. Lunch at Stephan Langton pub in Friday Street. Leader : Don Bolton.

Saturday/Sunday 28/29 March

Surrey Summits

62.5 miles in 28 hours from Downsland School, Leatherhead. SAE to Dave Challenger, 44 Agates Lane, Ashford, KT21 2ND. (Tel. 01372 277138)

Sunday 19 April

A Walk around the Land of Nod

About 20 miles. Start at 09.00am from Liphook railway station. 8.30 train from Guildford. Pub stop for lunch. Leader : Keith Chesterton, tel. 01483 563392.

Sunday 10 May

Windmill Wander

28 miles. Start 9.00am from Friday Street car park, GR 126 458. Pub stop for lunch. Leader : John Lay, tel : 01932 346596.

Thursday 14 May

Planning Meeting

7.30 for 8.00 in White Horse Store. Slide show to follow.

Thursday 21 May

The Edward Thomas Walk

16 -18 miles. Start at 9.30am from car park opposite Steep church, GR 745 253. Pub stop for lunch. Leader : Joan Wern, tel : 01483 538685.

RAMME

Thursday 11 June

Winkworth Wander

17 miles. Start at 9.30am in top car park at Winkworth Arboretum, GR 990 412. Pub stop for lunch. Leaders: Molly Groundsell (tel: 01483 762 843) and Peter Bull (tel: 01344 842508).

Tuesday 23 June

Midsummer Walk

Evening walk led by Louise and Tony Cartwright from their home at 12 East Meads, Onslow Village. Light refreshments to follow. Please advise Louise if you intend to take part. Her telephone number is 01483 503768.

Sunday 19 July

Goodwood Gyration

20 miles. Start 9.00am in car park at Goodwood racecourse, GR 879 114. Pub stop for lunch. Leader: Elaine Edwards, tel: 01243 262475.

Saturday/Sunday 1/2 August

Surrey Hills

50 miles on the route of the very first LDWA walk held on 13 March 1973. Start 17.00 at Tatsfield, finish 10.00am approx. at Frensham. At least one pub stop can be expected. More details from Keith Chesterton, tel: 01483 653392.

Thursday 28 August

Punchbowl Circular

21 miles. Start 9.00am from NT car park at Waggoners Wells - follow SP from south side of B3002, GR 863 343. Pub stop for lunch. Leader: Margaret Ackers, tel: 01428 605893.

Sunday 27 September

Dunsfold Kanter

12 or 20 miles from clubhouse at George IV playing fields, GR 006 370. Entry on the day only. Start 9.15am. SAE for details to Brian Haigh, 17 Lower Edgborough Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 2DX.

Fri/Sat/Sun 2/3/4 October

Wales Weekend

More details available from Molly Groundsell, tel: 01483 762843.

Proposed New Constitution for LDWA

Issue of the new constitution with the December 1997 Strider caused quite a buzz in our Group and led to Keith and I sending off the following Motion to the National Committee for discussion at the national AGM at Llanwryd Wells on 13-15 March 1998 :- ' This AGM, recognising the importance of the proposed new constitution issued with the December 1997 Strider and the impact it will have on the LDWA, resolves that consideration of a new constitution be deferred until the 1999 AGM. Further it urges the National Committee to make use of the breathing space thus provided to consult fully with the membership.'

As we see it the National Committee is trying to do two things with its proposed new constitution. Firstly, to overcome some potential legal problems by converting the LDWA into 'a company limited by guarantee', secondly to radically alter the way in which Local Groups operate. Other than to suggest insurance may be a feasible alternative to the former we have no major concern. The second part however is a different kettle of fish. The National Committee is attempting to introduce fundamental changes without proper consultation. One example is the proposal to introduce a capitation fee, which presumably will have to be funded by an increased subscription. It will be costly to administer, and cannot possibly meet the differing needs of Local Groups for local finance. This is just one example and yet the membership is expected 'to accept the new constitution in its entirety'. It will be a bad day for the LDWA if it does.

Report : Dunsfold Diversion

Thursday 27 November

Twelve for a Thursday walk was a good turn out. We met near the Village Hall and then headed west to the Sussex Border Path which we followed to Radgwick for our lunch break in the hostelry by the church. The landlord had been warned to expect a party of hungry walkers but this did not affect the two speed service of the establishment. As you have probably guessed 'very slow' was the faster of the two speeds!

For the return journey we joined the old railway track - now the Downs Link - at Raynards station after which we headed back to Dunsfold, passing near to the airfield. The weather was nothing to write home about but it stayed dry and, in spite of the slow service at lunch, we arrived back in the car park just before dark. Many thanks to all who came on the walk.

Brian Haigh

cont. from page 2.

Sunday dawned bright and clear and we enjoyed a superb, clear day on the Llangorse ridge watching buzzards and gliders, and having crystal clear views of the whole of the Brecons. A most enjoyable finale to a great weekend of company, food at the Wenalt and humour, particularly in the ad-lib phrases from all. The star prize for a real classic should probably go to Richard for his admission whilst adjusting his zoom camera to take a photograph of the group outside the front door of a farm. The men were heard to mutter "what's that" and the ladies "that's nice".

I missed Jean's famous tea and cakes on Sunday afternoon but I must say many thanks to Jean and Dan for hosting the weekend, and to Molly for organising it. Finally a message to Jim who I last saw downing a pint in Canada. "It was acc. man. I'll join you next year."

Phil Green

Report : AGM

20 January 1998

Ann Sayer was elected as the new Chairman for our Group when Keith decided to stand down after serving four years in the post. Sue Boyman agreed to continue for one more year and I decided to continue for yet another year. The resolution Keith and I had sent to the National Committee - see page 6 - was emphatically endorsed, strong concern being expressed about the lack of consultation with Local Groups and members. After the meeting we were entertained by a superb audio visual show by Paul Lawrence featuring the 1997 Downman 100.

Brian Haigh

Surrey Group Shirts for Sale

Janet Chapman has a good supply of Tee shirts at £6, Polo shirts at £9 and Sweat shirts at £10 in various sizes. All are bottle green with the new Surrey Group logo in white. Very smart.

If you would like to buy one (or more) please contact Janet while stocks last. Her telephone number is 01276 65169.

White Peak 200 : 2Jed - 25th May 1998

The joint organisers, the Sherwood and Staffordshire Groups, have accepted the offer of the Surrey Group to host a checkpoint. We have been allocated CP 6, 29.3 miles from the start. The CP, the third feeding station, will be in the Birchover Village Hall, GR 239622. It will be open from 14.00 to 22.00 on the Saturday requiring the Surrey Group to be present from midday to midnight. There is ample parking in the village along with two pubs. The quality of the beer is not known. Offers of help should be sent to me on e-mail RegChapman@compuserve.com, or by tel./fax on 01276 65169. I estimate a team of twenty will be needed.

Reg Chapman

An Revoir to Barbara

3 January 1998

The forecast was atrocious but it did not stop fifteen members of the Group turning out to join Barbara on a ten mile walk to mark her departure to her new home in the Lake District, just 283 miles north of her present abode in Sarbison. We started from the second car park - some thought it was the third but never mind that - and soon reached the Semaphore tower after which we arrived back at the car park. Barbara, our leader for the day announced that was the first loop completed. A pause to hide behind the trees during a vicious hailstorm soon ended and we followed Barbara over the A3 (on a bridge I am pleased to record) before passing through Wisley Gardens car park and on to cross back under the A3 to Wisley airfield. Water Lane came next and proved to be well named as we had to abandon the flooded lane for the marginally less wet fields at the side. Mays Green, more mud and blown down fences followed before we arrived back at the start at 4.50, with only just enough light to find our cars.

During the evening Barbara provided refreshments at her home after which a collection of slides were shown. In spite of the weather it had been a good day out. Barbara will be missed but as she said she will keep in touch and intends to visit Surrey from time to time. Her new address is :-

16 Howe Bank Close, KENDAL, Cumbria LA9 7PU. Tel: 01539 723712.

Brian Hoyle