



Surrey Group
NEWSLETTER

October 1999



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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 January for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Preferably they should be typed but legible manuscript will be gladly accepted.

Darham Dales Marshals 100 1st - 3rd May 99
Darham Dales 100 29th - 31st May 99

Checkpoint 10h Breakfast
Host Groups - Surrey and London

This was 62 miles in the Village Hall at Wearhead. Owing to limited capacity the baggage and first aid, on the main event were sited at Wearhead Village School 100yds before breakfast. This was ideal as the walkers and marshals did not have to endure sweaty socks and plasters whilst cooking, serving and eating. However the marshals did have to be ultra efficient (which of course they were) as the kitchen area for producing 500 meals would only accommodate three persons.

There were three phases of breakfast hosting this year where thanks are extended. First on the marshals walk were the day team, Janet and Reg Chapman, Elaine and Peter Edwards, Ian McLeod, Peter Saunders, Avril Supton and John Westcott. This served as a practice for the main event.

On the Main Event Reg was the Co-ordinator for the night team and Peter E. for the day team. The Surrey night crew I am sorry to say were not well supported by Surrey, but held together by three London members, Sylvia Nagarkar, Kathy LoRaso and Mary Perry, together with Ken Falcooner from St Andrews flying the flag for Bristol & West & Ann O'Mara Barry Harrison's girlfriend who regularly supports the Surrey Checkpoint.

At 0530 Barbara Blachford arrived having journeyed from Kendal to join the intrepid crew who were now ready to throw in the tea towel. 0630 heralded the start of the arrival of the day troops, Peter Edwards & Molly Groundsell, soon to be joined by Graham Borer, John Westcott, Olive and Roy Barnsley, Peter and Betty Waterhouse, Derek Bowdell and Richard Ineson who broke off his holiday to join us. Finally Michael Benson, Isabel, Ben & Jennifer Falcooner who were also flying the Bristol & West flag.

As a participant in the Event it was a real delight to arrive at the Breakfast point, not only because I was experiencing the delights of clean socks and underwear coupled with the realisation that there were only another 37 miles to complete the event, but because the checkpoint appeared to be so seamlessly organised. Tables were laid, there was complete TLC and waiting service.

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Burnour has it that the three ladies from London set the efficiency in motion, not before panic, however had set in. Eager to be on time to open the checkpoint they arrived two hours ahead of the planned schedule. Seeing no one from Surrey, they at this point believed they were co-ordinating the CP for the complete night, they lost no time in covering the floors and organising the hall to maximum efficiency.

Many thanks to you all. I know I can count on your support for the Millennium 100 in Kent. Offers of help to me, as usual, for the finish on the Marshals walk at the beginning of May and the breakfast on the Main Event the last weekend in May. The venue for both is Wye Village hall.

Finally congratulations to all our members who participated in the walk and for completing all or part of the event.

Jane Chapman

Report : A Day with the "Young Ones". 20th June

It was a damp and misty Sunday morning as Reg and I travelled to the free car park at the North End of Midhurst. Soon after our arrival, at 0830, we were joined by Elaine and Peter, the walk leader and sweeper. Peter and Reg took on the task of standing at the entrance to the car park to guide the walkers.

The assembled grew to thirteen these included members of the Surrey and London LDWA and from other extremities of the M25. To the delight of the males there was an excess of a younger band of female, well younger than me any way, but as scantily dressed as me. It was noted that one young lady changed her attire three times. Enough of sex (whoops gender) and the fashion parade. To return to the business in hand *Wood Gathering Around Woodbeding*. As previously mentioned we arrived in a damp mist and gentle rain. There was the normal shall we, or shall we not, take or don (sorry Don) our rain wear.

Decisions made, off we set. The sun came out and it became hotter and hotter. Along footpaths and through fields to arrive by 1030 at a charming cottage in Lodsworth. Our friends, Mervyn and Elizabeth hosts of the Christmas walk, had in their usual inimitable style laid on toast, fruit juice, hot drinks and all the trimmings. With our expressed thanks resounding throughout the village we set off at 1100 further into Sussex, wondering what other treats were in store.

Lunch time found us in an idyllic setting, a pub garden in the hamlet of Henley.

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PROG

Sunday 17 October

Founders Challenge

26 miles. Start Peaslake at 9.00am. SAE to Bill Thompson, 86 Lynton Road, Acton, LONDON W3 9HW for entry form.

Sunday 24 October

Tony's Tour

18 miles. Start 9.00am in top car park on Puttenham Common. SO 186 GR 921 461. Pub stop for lunch. Leader Tony Cartwright, tel. 01483 503768

Thursday 11 November

A Walk to Remember

18 miles. Start Vann Road car park, off A286. GR 895 285. Pub stop for lunch. Leader Margaret Ackers, tel. 01428 605893.

Sunday 18 November

Winkworth Wander

18 miles. Start 8.30am in bottom car park at Winkworth Arboretum. SO 186 GR 997 414. Pub stop for lunch. Leader John Lay, tel. 01932 346596

Saturday 11 December

Xmas Walk and Dinner

Start 0845 from Village Hall in Dunsfold. Dinner is at 7pm in the Sun Inn. Leader Mervyn Harvey, tel. 01798 344309.

Monday 27 December

Windsor Winter Wander

12 miles. Start walkers 9.00am, runners/joggers 10.00am from RAF Car Park, Coopers Hill Lane, Englefield Green, GR 996 748. OS 175 or Explorer 160. Small charge for route description & mid walk drinks. Organiser Ralph Henley MABAC Running League tel. 01784 252104.

Saturday 1 January

Surrey Inns Katter

12 or 20 miles. Start 09.15 onwards from St. Catherine's Hall, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford. Entries on the day only. Organiser: John Lay, tel. 01932 346596.

RAMME

Sunday 9 January **Winter Tanners**

30 miles with 20 mile option. SAE for entry form from John Westcott.

Thursday 13 January **AGM**

7.30 for 8pm in Percy Arms Shere. Any motions or amendments to the Constitution or Byelaws should be sent to the Group Secretary no later than 20 December 1999. Slide show to follow.

Tuesday 18 January **Bradley Bedonistic Hike**

16 miles. Start 09.30am from NT car park on Headley Heath opposite Cricket Club (fee £1.50, NT members free). GR 205 538. OS 187 or Explorer 146. Pub stop for lunch in Brockham. Leader Dave Challenger, tel. 01372 277138.

Saturday 22 January **Marshals Walk for Pouchbowl Marathon**

30 miles. Start Sun from Chichester Hall, Witley. More details from Keith Chesterton, tel. 01483 563392.

Sunday 6 February **Pouchbowl Marathon**

30 miles. Start from Witley Village Hall, GR 948 394. Entry form available from Ann Sayer, 29 Twickenham Road, Toddington, Middx TW11 8AQ. SAE required.

Saturday 12 February **Mystery Meander**

18 miles. Start 9.00 at Hindhead car park, GR 891 357. Pub stop for lunch. Leader Peter Bull, tel. 01344 842508.

Sat/Sun 19/20 February **Marshals Walk for Surrey Summits**

62 miles. Contact Reg Chapman for more details. Tel. 01276 65169.

disappointingly the fare was limited and did not meet either the leaders or walkers expectations. However refreshed and undeterred we continued our walk. The first high spot of the afternoon was a bog which created a bottle neck. As the afternoon wore on some of us were hopeful of an afternoon tea stop. We were not to be disappointed, the second high spot found ourselves being led up the drive of what could only be described as a stately home, Fitzhall. WI type ladies showed us into an ample sized room overlooking extensive grounds. Here gentle Sunday afternoon visitors were partaking of delicacies. Soon we were all enjoying home made cakes and afternoon tea served to us by charming mature waitresses.

After the refreshments some of the walkers took the opportunity to purchase cakes and plants. Our resident Sherpa Reg then transported the goodies together with unwanted baggage to Midhurst.

Although it may sound as though there was more eating than walking, we did indeed walk 23 miles. Thank you Elaine and Peter for another super day.

Janet Chapman

Report Mid -Summer's Evening Walk 21 June 1999

Probably this will go down in the archives of the Surrey Group as the walk which lost a participant before it had hardly started! I'm pleased to take this opportunity to apologise publically to John Westcott. Fortunately Keith Chesterton arrived (on the dot of 7pm?) to find only John busy changing his shoes. As there was no sign of the main field they organised their own midsummer celebration.

Meanwhile 17 walkers had disappeared along the footpaths of Ouslow Village and over the Hogs Back. We followed the North Downs Way, across the river and on past Shalford Mill before heading East along the valley below the Chantryes. We climbed up into the woods and turn backwards towards Guildford and our hot potato supper waiting at home. Delicious desserts had been supplied by the walkers - thanks to everyone. Overall it was a good evening - the countryside looked at its best, the threatened rain did not materialise and we hadn't eaten all the supper before John and Keith joined us.

Louise Cartwright

British Telecom, in their infinite wisdom, had decided they would bring the inhabitants of the village of Woodmanstone bang up to date with 20th century technology, before the millennium caught up with them, by digging up the whole of Lower Park Road to install telephone cables. They also blocked the road to remove three telegraph poles thus preventing access to our start in Banstead Woods car park. Everybody had to make a 4 mile diversion via Banstead High Street to return almost to the very spot where they had been half an hour earlier.

Notwithstanding this hiccup 15 happy souls including three new comers - Alison, John and Colin, and Alistair, an independent LDWA member from Hampton - set off at 9.30. The delayed start prompted me to think ahead along the following lines - 1. It was very hot, in excess of 85 degrees. 2. Flasks were already coming out of daysacks at every opportunity. 3. We needed to arrive at the Sportsman to eat no later than noon. Some short cuts would be needed.

We had to cross three golf courses, the first one being the rather posh Kingswood Royal. Having successfully traversed their immaculate fairways we made our first route change to follow Chipstead Lane to the Gallops on the middle of Banstead Heath just three miles away from opening time. 57 years ago, almost to the day, a USAF Dakota with Glenn Miller, his band, and all their instruments on board made a forced landing on the Heath. They had been en route from Limerick to Kenley but because of failed hydraulics, low visibility, cloud down to 500 feet, and almost empty fuel tanks they were left with no alternative but to attempt to land on the first available open space. The Heath must have been a godsend.

Soon we were in the Sportsman and after an extended lunch break we set off enthusiastically to climb Colley Hill, passing Walton Heath Golf Club and having a scenic view of the M25 en route. The really good thing about Colley Hill is that you hardly realise you have climbed it, being distracted by the wonderful panoramic views towards the South Downs skyline some thirty miles distant. By now the heat of the afternoon was upon us and the cafe at Gatton Park was very popular. We followed the Pilgrims' Way for another mile before turning northwards through the scrubland of Reigate Hill Golf Course and into a section of wilderness walking hard by the M25. The local farmer had sown

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wheat over the existing footpath and this was further complicated by having to divert round the back of a clay pigeon shoot. Very exciting. All this made for interesting, if somewhat strenuous long distance slogging in the true sense of the word during the height of a very hot summer afternoon.

Finally we returned, through the welcome cool shade of Banstead Woods, to cups of tea and ice creams from a kiosk in the car park. It had been eighteen and a half hot but happy miles. Grateful thanks to all who joined me.

John Lay

Vacancy for Group Secretary and Editor. Repeat Announcement

This is my seventh year as Secretary so I have decided to stand down at the next AGM in January 2000. During the twenty-one years I have been a member of the LDWA I have obtained a lot of pleasure from taking part in LDWA organised events. Seven years ago it seemed right to put a little back into the organisation by taking on the job of Secretary and Editor. Hopefully there is someone out there who is now willing to take over. I will be pleased to discuss the requirements of the job with anyone who is interested. Anybody who is interested should contact me in good time before the next AGM.

Brian Haigh

Welcome to New Members

The following have recently joined our Group :-

Margaret Bailey, John Barnard, Dawn Bishop, Mike & Pam Bott, Derek Bowdell, Elizabeth Bryan, James Edwards, Pat Goodwin, Carolyn Jones, Nick Le-Faye, Colin Mascarenhas, Alison Newman, Mike Oakland, and Alan Rogers.

Did you Know?

... *Mary Willison, who died in her 110th year, when at age of 99 walked from Rosald Kirk in Yorkshire, to London, a distance of 290 miles, in five days and three hours, carrying on her back a keg of gin and provisions for her support during her journey.*

From *The Stroud News* 31 March 1916.