

Surrey Group
NEWSLETTER

February 1999

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Items for the Newsletter

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

LDWA Constitution

One Christmas present with a difference which I received at the end of last year was a copy of the Model Constitution for Local Groups sent to me by the National Committee. The idea seems to be that all Groups will have identical Constitutions backed up by a set of Bye laws which will contain provision for local customs and practices. Copies of the model constitution have been issued to the Group committee for comments. Next step will be the AGM of the National Committee at the end of March. If the new constitution for Groups is agreed (as expected) it is likely we will have a meeting sometime in the second half of 1999 to adopt the new Constitution and Bye laws.

Report : In Roman Footsteps

12 November 1998

A party of sixteen including three members of the Sussex Group set off in bright sunshine to enjoy a walk over the border in Sussex. By the time we reached the River Arun the good weather had gone, replaced by lowering clouds and a promise of rain. Soon we left the river bank and after passing through Dury we headed across country via Bignor Park to our pub stop in the White Horse in Sutton. We ate well as to be expected in an Egon Ronay establishment.

The rain had started just before lunch and continued intermittently during the afternoon as we passed through Barlavington to Seaford College. Now we had to pay for starting on top of a hill! The steep climb up to the SDW had more than one of us wishing we had eaten more sparingly at lunchtime. But having reached the SDW it was not the end. Before long we lost most of the height we had gained as we dropped to the A285 to be followed by another steep climb up Sutton Downs. But now, at last, it was level to the car park on Bignor Hill. It had been a good day out and we had enjoyed the company of our friends from Sussex. Many thanks to all who supported this walk.

Brian Hough

Report : An Afternoon Around Ashstead

24 October 1998

As a penance for the bad planning that bedevilled this walk I thought I should write the report myself. The first planning blunder was the weather;

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I've been a member of the LDWA for four years receiving Strider regularly but have not walked with them. However when I saw a long weekend in Wales I thought "That's just right for me". I phoned Molly Groundsell, the organiser, who immediately made me feel at ease and arranged transport which was most thoughtful.

We set out for Wales from Woking at 7.15am via Guildford and hence to Abergavenny. Arrangements had been made to meet at 'Chats' for coffee and toasted tea cakes. By 11.30 we were ready for our 12 miles walk. Dan was our leader for the 9th year. Luckily for us he knows the area 'inside out'. We headed NW to Ysgyd Fawr (486m). Sadly it was shrouded in mist but this did not dampen our enthusiasm. On lower levels the mist cleared and after two more ascents we returned via Deri Valley to Abergavenny and our cars to go on to our b&b at the Wenauk, a 16th century farmhouse looking over the Usk valley.

Saturday dawned bright and sunny and by 9.00 we were on our way. First north to Gilwern Hill and then across old mining country to Myddel Fawr (544m). It was at this stage it was 'suggested' that I, as the newcomer, should write the report! The sun was replaced by clouds but it was still pleasant as we had lunch before setting off for Blorenge (552m) passing the tombstone of Foxhunter. On the descent we almost lost Elaine up into the skies. A group of colourful paragliders were in action and had the wind been kinder then I am sure she would have accepted the offer of a free trip. Dan, having noticed the temptation, set off at high speed on a circuitous route back to the Wenauk. It had been an enjoyable 18 miles. The day was rounded off by a hot bath, a good meal and a game of cards with Molly at the helm.

Sunday was a shorter walk of about 12 miles out along the Usk valley and returning on the Moormouth and Brecon canal to reach Abergavenny at 3.15. To help us off on our way back to Surrey Dan and his wife Jean invited us to have tea at their home. It was splendid with excellent goodies, all provided by Jean's own efforts. Many thanks for your hospitality, Dan and Jean.

If any of you have doubts about slipping off for weekends "Go for it". You'll be made most welcome. I was.

Elizabeth Bryon

PROG

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

Puttenham Ploed

About 18 miles. Start 8.30am from picnic area on south side of A31, GR 927 483. Pub stop for lunch in 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 Pigeon House. Leader Tony Youngs, tel. 01737 778615.

Saturday/Sunday 17/18 April

Surrey Summits

62.5 miles in 26 hours from Downsend School, Leatherhead. SAE to Dave Challenger, 44 Agnes Lane, Ashted, Surrey, KT21 2ND.

Thursday 22 April

Chobham Clump

16 miles. Start 10.00am in car park at GR 974 623. Map SO 186. No pub stop for lunch. Stop for afternoon tea at end. Leader : Brian Haigh, tel. 01483 303020.

Tuesday 11 May

Planning Meeting

7.30 for 8.00pm at Percy Arms, Chilworth GR 031 473. Wales Weekend slide show from John Lay to follow.

Thursday 13 May

Thames Toddle

17 miles. Start at 10.00am from free car park on B4009, map OS 174 GR 583 806. Pub stop for lunch. Joint walk with our friends in the Thames Valley Group. Leader : Avril Stapleton, tel : 01344 776621.

LAMME

Sunday 16 May

Fifty Frolic

Up to 20 miles. Start 8.45am from home of Richard Ireson 34 Church Road, Crownthorne, Berks. GR 841 642. Pub stop for lunch. Light refreshments including birthday cake at end. Leader : Richard Ireson, tel : 01344 777444.

Sunday 20 June

Wool Gathering Around Woolbeding

20 miles. Start at 9.00am from free car park at north end of Midhurst. Map SO 197 GR 887 218. Pub stop for lunch. Leader : Elaine Edwards. Tel : 01254 262475.

Tuesday 22 June

Midsummer Walk

Evening walk led by Louise and Tony Cartwright from their home at 12 East Meads, Onslow Village. Start 7.00pm. Refreshments available at end. Please advise Louise (tel: 01483 503768) if you intend to take part. She would welcome offers of desserts.

Thursday 15 July

Look Out and About

18 miles from Look Out car park in Bracknell, GR 876 661. Start 9.30am. Pub stop for lunch. Leader : Les Maple. Tel: 01753 866685

Sunday 25 July

Glenn Miller Passed This Way

20 miles. Start at 9.00am from Banstead Woods c.p. off Lower Park Road, SO 187 GR 273 583. Pub stop for lunch. Leader John Lay. T : 01932 346596.

Sunday 26 September

Dunsfold Kanter

20 or 12 miles from Club House at George IV playing fields, GR 006 370. Start 9.15am. More information from Brian Haigh, tel : 01483 303020.

Saturday - Tuesday, 9 - 12 October

Lakeland Weekend

Replaces annual visit to Wales. Please contact Motty Groundselli early to book accommodation. Tel : 01483 762843.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Northumbria Group has allocated us CP 108, 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 night is available at the walk HQ, Wolsingham Community School, Bishop Auckland, GR 072 375. Information and details of further accommodation can be found on page 3 of the August Strider.

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

Report : Hampshire Villages

15 October 1998

Six walkers set out on a bright Autumn morning up the Zig Zag to Selbourne Common. The leaves were just starting to turn and the views were stunning. Our walk took us through five delightful Hampshire villages, and time allowed us to peep into two churches. It seemed most of the local farmers had decided it was ploughing time and as many of our paths went diagonally across their fields the result was heavy mud laden boots. At one point an electric fence had to be crossed. Don, the gallant gent he is, held my hand to help me over the wire and guess what we BOTH had an electric shock. Thanks Don. Later we passed through Binsted churchyard and saw General Montgomery's grave. A simple stone, just as he requested.

This really delightful walk ended in a perfect way - afternoon tea in Selbourne. What could have been better? Many thanks to Keith for an enjoyable walk.

Adolly Groundsall

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heavy rain and high winds in the morning which continued in the same fashion throughout the afternoon. Despite the weather ten hardy souls who had indicated they would be coming turned up. This year we did not venture on to Ashstead Common but set off for Epsom Downs by way of Thirty Acre Barn. After skirting the Downs we climbed to the outskirts of Walton-on-the-Hill en route for Headley Heath. During a brief stop under the M25 I promised the group a stop for tea at Alison's caravan on the Heath. This was the second, and much more serious blunder, because when we arrived at the caravan it was closed "due to high winds". No doubt dear reader, you can imagine that at this point I was not particularly popular so I thought it best to put my head down and make for home along Stone Street in the hope that Pat's tea would save my skin. Pat's goodies did the trick and I live to lead another walk.

Dave Challenger

AGM News

Barry Harrison is the new Treasurer of the Group, taking over from Sue Boyman who has done a splendid job over the last few years. Ann and Brian were re-elected as Chairman and Secretary. We agreed we would have a website and the first Webmaster would be Reg Chapman. Gillian Bull gave an excellent slide show featuring her holiday in the Yosemite national park.

Report : Gillian's Jaunt

22 November 1998

A bright wintry morning welcomed twenty three of us as we set off on Gillian's jaunt from the railway station at Virginia Water. It was good to see some new faces, especially some young ones! The autumn colours were splendid and there were some lovely reflections in the lake. We kept up a good pace all morning and reached Windsor and the pub in good time.

After an enjoyable lunch we returned through the park, spotting a large herd of deer on the way. In Saville Gardens we all enjoyed the tea stop where we learnt it was Dave's birthday. We sang Happy Birthday with gusto before continuing back to the car park just as the light was fading. Many thanks, Gillian, for a lovely walk.

Molly Grounds

Report : Heaven and Earth

17 December 1998

Eleven good members and true motivated perhaps by an opportunity to have their 15 minutes of fame gathered at Newlands Corner to provide footage for the BBC1 Heaven and Earth programme. For those with better things to do at 9.30am the programme usually includes a group who have a different activity than going to church. We were to represent those who prefer to spend their Sunday mornings on their feet rather than on their knees. Harry Bishop, Louise Cartwright, Janet & Reg Chapman, Keith Chesterton, Jim Denton, John Hornsey, Les Maple, Ann Sayer, Tony Youngs and myself met at 11.30am and for the next four - yes FOUR - hours walked up the hill, down the hill, across the hill, up the hill again, through the bushes, into the mud and out of the mud while the less than fully fit camera man with his heavy camera tried to keep up with us. Harry then read two poems specially commissioned by the BBC for the occasion. The programme went out on 10 January, the day of the Winter Tanners, so there must have been many VCRs in use to capture the outcome for viewing later. Not that they needed much tape! Our 'fifteen minutes of fame' lasted no more than five. But it was a bit of good fun. We must have walked all of two miles in four hours.

Brian Haigh

Report : Wet and Windy on Holmbury Hill

19 January 1999

Another opportunity to publicise our Group occurred when Don Bolton, Keith Chesterton, John Hornsey, Tony Youngs and myself met on Holmbury Hill with landowner Hilda Bray for photographs to accompany an article for Country Life. Holmbury Hill had been selected because it affords the best views of Surrey from the top. But not on that day. The wind was gale force, the rain was heavy and the visibility was almost nil. Just right for taking photographs! However publishing deadlines prevented any delays, the photographs had to be taken. One hour later, wet and cold, we returned to our cars and headed home.

Later that day when we arrived at the Percy Arms for the AGM there was a thank you card from Mrs Bray and the wherewithal for a round of drinks for 'the LDWA heroes who stood for an hour on Holmbury Hill in rain, sleet and driving gale'. If all landowners were like her we would have no problems.

Brian Haigh