



Surrey Group  
**NEWSLETTER**  
February 2000



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

### **Walking in Andorra : 2-16 September 2000**

The tiny principality of Andorra is ringed by mountains forming the sunnier Eastern region of the Pyrenees. Anyone who has experienced the upper high level slopes and ridges will know it is a walker's paradise. From the chief town, Andorra la Vella and Les Escaldes, a fan of roads lead to the higher valleys from where various summits, many approaching 9000 feet, and beautiful mountain lakes can be reached; all attractive objectives for a days walk.

A party of eleven members of the Surrey LDWA Group will be going there in September. Anyone wishing to join them or to have further information should ring John Lay on 01932 346596.

### **New Secretary for Surrey Group**

After seven years in the job Brian Haigh stood down at the AGM held on 11 January. The new Secretary is John Lay who is well known to many members not least for the many walks he has led during the last few years.

### **Bye Laws Amended.**

At the AGM held on 11 January two additions were accepted. First that 'The Chairman, Group Secretary and Group Treasurer will not normally serve more than three years' was added to 1.1 in the Group Management Committee section. The other addition was a new sentence 1.2 to Funds section. The new sentence is :- 'With effect from 1 January 2000 the Group membership subscription shall be £2 per annum'.

Increases in subscriptions are never welcome but the gap of more than £100 between the cost of producing the newsletter and the income from subscriptions had reached the point that something had to be done.

### **New Surrey Badge**

The new badge, showing Leith Hill tower, in white on a green background is now available from Brian Haigh at 80p plus a sac. The 80p can be paid in stamps rather than a cheque if preferred. His address is :-

17 Lower Edgborough Road, GUILDFORD, Surrey GU1 2DX

Traditionally a weekend in Wales, this year saw a change of venue, and a 16 strong group descended on Cumbria. Having been unable to go on one of the past events I am here with some trepidation. What have I let myself in for?

Lunchtime, Saturday 9th Oct, finds the group assembled at our pub rendezvous, all jolly civilised, until someone suggests it is time to leave to meet up with Barbara Blanchford the leader of the afternoon walk at Woodlands Fell (Garthwaite). It takes a little time to get the group ready but soon we are up, up and more up. Not sure how high this hill is relative to Surrey but a steady climb. Weather grey and overcast, no views. Pleasant walk in spite of the weather then, after a token drying, it is off to Monk Coniston, our home for the next three nights. Order of the day is a warm shower, snift half in the bar, and dinner.

*This place is unlikely to get into the good food guide but we had.* After dinner we have a briefing from Phil our leader for a 14 mile walk taking in Pike O'Blisco, Crinkle Crag and Bowfell. Sunday and off we go to Dungeon Ghyll in Langdale. After a mile or so Phil points out the to the top of Pike visible in the distance. This turns out to be a man made track built to combat erosion. A break for lunch then on to Crinkle Crag where we met three chaps going down rather quickly. Nutters these fell runners. The original plan was to climb Bowfell but with deteriorating weather common sense prevailed and we started the long gradual descent to Langdale. The rain has its benefits producing quite spectacular cascades off rock faces and a full flowing white water beck in the valley. Walking along the road back to our cars there is a rescue helicopter cruising the valley. It is for real. Walk over we returned to Monk Coniston. After-dinner briefing is by Ann tomorrow's leader. The early finish gives time to see what else is on offer. Barn dancing in the barn and what in the lounge. Molls is doing the scoring and is winning!

Monday, already brighter than yesterday, hills visible from bedroom window. Leave Monk Coniston and Wetherlam our first landmark. This one of those strange hills. Just when you think you have reached the peak there is yet another beyond - and another. With better visibility the lakes and valleys are appreciated though it is still difficult to envisage the area covered with hundreds of feet of ice scouring out the landscape. We watch fell farmers working with dogs, and marvel at the fitness required for a day's work. Next we make tracks to The Old Man. Short lunch break. It may not be raining today but the cobwebs of suburbia are being blown away with a vengeance. Back track a little then aim for Dow Crag - *Down away like a startled stag* - and Coniston Village where there is a treat in store. A pub with it's own brewery behind.

**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.

**Saturday 4 March****Winter Weybar**

17 miles. Repeat of popular summer event of the early 80s. Start 9.10 at Godalming station, GR 966 439, after arrival of London train expected at 9.05. Follow Guildford and Wey Navigation to reach Weybridge. Use train before or after. Leader Richard Ireson, tel. 01344 777444.

**Thursday 16 Mar****South Downs Saunter**

18 miles. Start at 9.30 in Washington car park, GR 121 120, on SDW. Pub stop for lunch. Leader Brian Haigh, tel. 01483 303020.

**Saturday/Sunday 8th/9th April****Surrey Summits**

62 miles. Start at 9.30 - 10.00am from Downsland School, Leatherhead, GR S0187 177571. NO ENTRIES ON THE DAY. SAE: Dave Challenger, 44 Agates Lane, ASHTEAD Surrey KT21 2ND.

**Thursday 29 April****Maundy at Midhurst**

15 miles. Start at 9.30, OS 197 GR 904 249. T1 for approx. one mile off A286 opposite sign for King Edward VII hospital. Pub stop for lunch. Leader Elizabeth Bryan, tel 01483 776985.

**Monday 1 May****May Day Walks**

20 miles in 7 parts. All start at Newlands Corner, OS E86 GR 043 492 -

- a) 5am PROMPT. 7.5 miles to watch Morris Men at St. Martha's - return for breakfast.
- b) 10.30 am. 7 miles. Return for lunch.

c) 2 pm. 5.5 miles. Return for tea. Organised by Surrey R. A.

**Thursday 4 May** **Planning Meeting**

7.30 for 8.00pm at Percy Arms, Chilworth. GR 011 473

**Sunday 21 May** **Haslemere Linear**

18 miles. Start at 9 am from Haslemere train station. Walk to Guildford Park at Guildford station or 12 East Meads to catch 08.50 train to Haslemere pub stop for lunch. Leader Tony Cartwright, tel 01483 503768.

**Sunday 11 June** **Haslemere Group of Surrey Tops**

20 miles. Start 9.15 am from Haslemere station, OS 186 GR 898 324. Pub stop for lunch. Leader Keith Chesterton, tel : 01493 563392. N.B. This is first of a series of walks to climb all 41 tops over 150m in Surrey

**Wednesday 21 June** **Midsummer Walk**

7 miles. Start at 12 East Meads, Oxtow Village, at 6.45 for 7.00pm. Hot potato salad at end. Offers of desserts welcome. Please advise Louise if you intend to take part. Tel : 01583 503768.

**Wednesday 12 July** **West Meon Meander**

17 miles. Start at 9.30 am in car park on Old Winchester Hill Lane, GR Explorer 119, GR 645 214. Pub stop for lunch. Leader Joan Wren 01483 538685.

**Sunday 23 July** **Phil's Summer Sizzler**

18 miles. Start 9.30 am at Exhurst village car park, OS186, GR 091 404. Pub stop for lunch. Leader Philip Green, tel 01483 276834.

**Saturday 30 September - Tuesday 3 October** **Pennine Weekend**

This year the location is Mafham. More details from Molly Groundbell, tel 01483 762 843

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For real ale drinkers the Bluebird is good, the Old Man ale is even better. Back at Monk Coniston everybody looking as if they are sunburned. After dinner activities are a quiz and another card game. Molly is scoring again, and winning again. Just don't even think it!

Tuesday and Barbara is leading another short walk before treating the group to a home made ploughmans lunch. This time to Whitbarrow Scar - meet up with expats John and Beryl Offley - a limestone pavement now largely stripped for decorative stone. A better day yet I miss the wildness of the previous two days.

Sincere thanks from us all go to Molly for arranging the weekend, to Phil and Ann for leading the two major walks, and to Barbara for not only leading two walks but also providing an excellent buffet lunch. In summary a good break. My only personal regret being it was all over too quickly.

*Mike Mordie*

**Report : Winkworth Winter Wander**

**28 November 1999**

To finish before dark required a prompt start so it was not long before our group of twelve was climbing up through the arboretum and then on via Hudsons Ball to Chiddingfold where we had lunch at the Winstonon Arms. They had been warned of our arrival but declined to take our orders until 12.15 thus extending our stay rather longer than we had planned.

Our return journey was through Densfold and then up Backrock Hill to Hascombe where we joined the Greensand Way to add a loop to the route. Very often a loop can appear rather artificial but not this one. And it had the advantage of extending the walk to 20 miles before we reached the car park once again. At twenty minutes to five the light was beginning to go. The pace had been well judged by John Lay our leader. Another five minutes and torches would have been needed. Many thanks.

*Brian Haigh*

**Congratulations**

On 12 January Margaret Steer, now living in Cornwall, celebrated her eightieth birthday. We wish her well and hope she will have many more.

#### Report A Walk to Remember 11 November

Given that this was a Thursday walk which is almost the exclusive domain of the retired wrinklies there was a good turnout of sixteen including one who had travelled all the way from Bodford. With only one minute to go it was looking as if it might be only fourteen but then Dave and Mike arrived after encountering heavier traffic than they expected. Leaving Fernhurst behind we headed south through pleasant countryside enjoying views down to the South Downs. Time passed as it usually does and soon it was 11.11. Margaret stopped the group and we stood silently to remember those who had sacrificed their lives so that we could enjoy freedom.

Our next stop was less quiet, in the Hollist Arms in Ludworth where we were served a quality meal from the extensive choice available for us. One hour later we were on our way again, this time to Lurgashall winery where we had afternoon tea and the opportunity to buy a few bottles in readiness for Xmas. After a leisurely stop it was once again best foot forward to complete the route back to Fernhurst. It had been a good walk well led as usual by Margaret Ackers. Many thanks.

Brian Hoigh

#### Report Surrey Inns Kanter 1 January 2009

I arrived with ample time to mark up my Landranger maps. Unfortunately they were not only torn along the folds but smothered with numbers, names, symbols and highlights from every Puschbox1, Summit and Inns conceived by decades of Surrey organisers. I seriously considered cramming the large scale display map into my back pocket instead!

With Hugh and Renate Romer we made rapid progress towards Chishurst Tower. Thick mist prevented us even seeing the hill but Hugh remembered 1984 (*I looked around nervously for Big Brother*) and confidently led us to the top. We counted all the tower windows, debated the correct category for a window with broken glass and circled the tower again before answering '8 plus 1'. Memories of the main track across Blackheath inspired confidence so we plunged straight ahead after the junction only to discover the track was swinging subtly south. Wasn't it Chesterton who wrote, 'The right we went to Brook by way of Farley Green'? There is a lovely village and I remembered evening bell ringing during a Surrey Summit and, at Gomshall railway bridge, having such a soggy checkcard that I had to start memorising the quiz answers. This time, noting the GPO stone number was no problem. As we reached the wooded slopes of the Downs our minds focussed on the climb. Sadly we misjudged the

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turn and, to compensate, followed several forestry paths with devilish twists into alien territory before we sorted ourselves out.

By now we had acquired the initials of numerous landlords and ladies without offering them much custom but time was of the essence so we headed for home. I reckoned that even alone I could make it all the way back along the NDW without any problems but spotting two more places where I had erred on earlier events did little for my self-esteem. Many times I have plodded up the sandy track to St. Martha's Church but never have I seen so many locals enjoying the winter sunshine. We paid our respects to Yvonne Arnaud, no longer shy about her date of birth, and descended past families with enthusiastic toddlers still making for the summit.

Back at the ranch house Gillian Ball welcomed us with a smile and a tasty soup. John Lay promised us a special certificate. I was delighted to hear that many other walkers had slipped up with their navigation at least once. But we could not blame the organiser as the GRs were spot on. Twenty miles was an ideal distance for a mid-winter kanter and there was plenty of variety. Many thanks to those who gave up their New Year's Day to make our start to the Millennium so memorable.

Keith Noble (Essex and Herts)

#### **Water, Water, Everywhere.**

Many thanks to Tony Cartwright for taking sixteen members on Tony's Tour of Putesham on 24 October. Most walks in 1999 were on dry days but not this one! There had been rain in the days before the event significantly raising water levels. And on the day there was more, covering some of the walkways. Without the walkways diving suits would have been needed. However it was a good day out which everybody claimed they had enjoyed.

#### **Christmas Walk was Good - AGAEN**

11 December

Many, many thanks to Mervyn and Elizabeth for a splendid walk from Dunsfold and a first class dinner at the Sun Inn which followed. This event has now become established as one of the highlights of our programme. And one not to be missed. New members should note it is one not only for the regulars. This time new members Dawn Bishop and Alison Newman joined the walk and the dinner -and enjoyed both!