



Surrey Group  
**NEWSLETTER**

June 2000

**Group Officers**

- Chairman.**           **Ann Sayer**  
29 Twickenham Road,  
TEDDINGTON, Middx, TW11 8AQ  
Tel : 0181 977 9495
- Secretary  
and Editor.**       **John Lay**  
Oakcroft, Dartnell Avenue  
WEST BYFLEET, Surrey, KT14 6PL  
Tel : 01932 346596
- Treasurer.**       **Barry Harrison**  
58 Arundel Road,  
KINGSTON upon THAMES, KT1 3RZ  
Tel : 0181 949 1547
- 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 September for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Preferably they should be typed but legible manuscript will be gladly accepted.

Here we are once again, gathered at Chichester Hall for the onslaught of yet another Punchbowl Marathon, but this time a completely new route lies ahead of us. Rumour has it from the Marshalls walkout that the going is expected to be tough due to the level of MUD about 1 so you start to think "Gosh, why did I get out of a warm bed? Am I really that sad to warr to walk 30 miles?" Then HALLELUJAH! You see all the old familiar faces each greeting one another with warmth and sincerity and you then think its all going to be worth it.

The hall is now buzzing with chit-chat and everyone is raring to go. You soon realize why you have chosen to be there in this lovely atmosphere, 8 o'clock approaches and after Keith's welcoming speech, all hell is let loose and we're off.

NOT long before we hit our first bit of mud and the first of many stiles spaced throughout (over 54 at the last count!), route description pretty good so far; then the rain sets in, making reading difficult; windscreen wipers now required for spectacles. Yippeee! A good downhill bit, so good that we miss going RIGHT by the tennis courts, so its down to the bottom only to come back up again to rejoin the route. Undaunted by the miserable weather, poor visibility and no real views to appreciate, we stalwartly forge onwards to the first checkpoint at Dunsfold to be warmly greeted by Gillian Bull and a motley crew(thanks Dave for the warm blackcurrant).

So off we go again, dung heaps everywhere! More mud! More rain! Trying to convince ourselves we are enjoying this and before very long we reach checkpoint two at Graywood. The runners, who started two hours after us,now catch us up! What now? A hard slog up to Gibbet Hill where Ann Sayer is waiting to check us in and in decision time, 25 or 30 miles?

30 miles it is, so we head towards the A3 and a suicidal attempt to cross over. PHEW!! Unlike the hedgehog who crossed to see his flatmate(flat mate), we made it over safely and head for Thursley Common and the "faint wet path". The path was so "faint" we ended up in a bog up to our knees in water trying to avoid the "wet path", not to worry though, my trainers were so old and holey the water found its own way out,not like those who had to stop to empty their boots. "Gosh, CP4 already!"and more familiar faces,last leg now,4.5 miles to go. Oh NO!! the dreaded A3 again!! But this time, four lanes of speed obsessed drivers trying hard to get you. So this is why it is called a challenge walk?

Soon we are smelling sausages, beans, and chips and toast cooking and make a bee-line for Chichester Hall, where our super team of chefs await our return on the completion of 30 momentous miles. The route this year was slightly tougher than last year,the route description was good with only one criticism.....the marshals could have provided a bit more MUD!!Only kidding.Thanks to everyone.....

*Margaret Ackers.*

### **Janet's Top Ten!!**

Special congratulations are due to Janet Chapman for completing her tenth 100. Conditions on the marshalls walk (27/28th May) were atrocious and by all accounts the route was a complete quagmire for most of the distance; she arrived back at the Wye Village Hall during the small hours of Friday morning much bedraggled but in her usual best form.

### **Report : Headley Hedonistic Hike**

18 January 2000

My dictionary defines hedonism as "[conduct based on] the doctrine that personal pleasure is the sole or chief good". Well, I think we all got personal pleasure from the January day. Ten of us devoted all our time to pleasure and Richard escaped from work to be with us. From the heights of Headley Heath we seemed to go downhill most of the morning to lunch in Brockham at the Duke's Head. Some climbing in the afternoon, during which we managed to divert the leader towards tea and cakes on Box Hill. Back at the car-park long-legged Mike used his persuasive skills to keep the kiosk open until the shorter stragglers arrived, so that we could indulge again. Thank you Dave for a good day out. *Alan Brown*

### **Report : Winter Weybar**

4 March 2000

It was a pleasure to wake on the first Saturday of March to a cold bright day with the prospect of Richard Ineson's walk from Godalming to Weybridge. Surey Group was enlarged and flattered by visitors from West Sussex, Isle of Wight, Barnard Castle and Staffordshire.

The Wey's tow path has been interrupted by new road bridges but the presence of narrow boats reminds us that this was a working river for trade, transport and water mills. Now it gives pleasure to boatmen, canoeists, walkers, swans and numerous ducks. We walked a level or very slightly downhill path with few muddy puddles, along tree-lined banks, fields and town sides. We stopped for coffee just past the Guildford lock, a little further and the town wharfs are still evident and there are notices about mooring boats free of charge! From Guildford the river is like a scene from "Wind In The Willows" trees, reeds and gentle bends.

The party lunched at The New Inn Send, a good pub, tucked down by the river below the bridge. It was from here that one visitor left us and another just disappeared! The remaining fifteen travelled on passing the ruins of Newark Priory by Pyford lock and many a pleasant place before leaving the tow path at Weybridge to join a footpath to the station where some collected their cars and others returned by train to Godalming.

A delightful walk of eighteen miles on the level. Thank you Richard for giving us a fine walk on a fine day. *Peter Bull*

Sunday 11 June

Haslemere Group of Surrey Tops

20 miles. Start 9.15 am from Haslemere station, OS 186 GR 898 329. 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. Officers of deserts welcome. Please advise Louise if you intend to take part. Tel: 01483 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.

Thursday 17 August

Astride the A25

14 miles followed by a barbecue at Mike's home afterwards. Start at 9.15am park in Tweed Lane, Brockham Explorer 146 GR200480. Please advise Mike in advance if you intend to take part. Leader Mike Mardle tel: 01737 843159.

Sunday 3 September

Under, Over and Along the Downs

19 Miles. Start 9.00 am from Petersfield station OS197, GR744235 (8.21 train from Guildford) via Treyford. Lunch at Hooks Wey and back via Buxton. Leader Keith Chesterton, tel: 01483 563392.

Tuesday 19 September

Planning Meeting

7.30 for 8.00 pm at Percy Arms, Chilworth GR031473.

Wednesday 27th - 29th September

Frasines Event

This Year the walks programme will be located in and around the Malham Tarn area. More details from Molly Grosandall, tel: 01483 762843.

Sunday 1 October

Densfold Kanter

20 or 12 miles from clubhouse at George IV playing fields OS187 GR006370. Start 9.15 am. Entries on day only. More information from organiser Brian Haigh, tel: 01483 303020.

**Sunday 22 October****Founders Challenge**

26 miles. Start at Peaslake Memorial Hall at 9.00 am. SAE: Bill Thompson, 86 Lynton Road, Acton, London W3 9HW for entry form. Tel: 0181 992 0991

**Saturday 28 October****An Afternoon Around Ashstead**

12 miles followed by refreshments from the house of Dave and Pat Challenger, 44 Agates Lane, Ashstead. GR178577. Start at 12.30. Please advise Dave in advance if you intend to take part. Tel: 01372 277138.

**Sunday 19 November****Gillian's Jaunt Revisited**

18 miles. Start 9.00 am from Bourne car park, Virginia Water Station, OS176 GR001678. Pub stop for lunch.  
Leader: Gillian Ball, tel: 01344 842508

**Wednesday 6 December****The Beauty Spots of Dorking**

17 miles. Start at 8.30 am from car park at Friday Street, OS 187 GR125457. Pub stop for lunch.  
Leader: Michael White, tel: 01306 888886

**Saturday 9 December****Xmas Walk and Dinner**

Several miles. Start at 8.45 am from Village Hall, Dunsfold. Dinner is at 7.00 pm at the Sun Inn.  
Leader: Mervyn Harvey, tel: 01798 344 309

**Wednesday 27 December****Wadour Winter Wander**

12 miles. Start: walkers 9.00 am, runners 10.00 am from RAF car park, Coopers Hill Lane, Englefield Green, OS175 GR006748. Small charge for route description and mid walk drinks.  
Organiser: Ralph Henley MABAC Running League, tel: 01784 252104

**Monday 1 January****Surrey Inns Kaiter**

20 or 12 miles. Start at 9.15 am onwards from St. Catherine's Hall, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford. Entries on day only.  
Organiser: John Lay, tel: 01932 346596

**Sunday 14 January****Winter Tanners**

10 miles with 20 miles option.  
SAE: John Westcott, 31 Brackem Way, Chobham, Woking, Surrey GU24 8PR

### **Mervyn says 'Cheers'**

Many thanks to the Xmas crowd, for the excellent drink.

I am working on the old nursery, Church Lane, Lodswoth nearly every day, so if anyone is passing, call in, and have a cuppa. Mervyn

### **Report : Mystery Meander**

16 February 2000

The day dawned somewhat wet. Nevertheless 16 'brave' walkers met at the NTCP Hindhead. Peter Bull was to kindly lead us. We donned our waterproofs from top to toe and set off along the west side of the Punchbowl passing Hedge Farm and on to Thursley Church. From here we went East to Witley, there crossing stepping stones bridge and then South East towards Hambledon and back to the "Wood and Pidgeon" at Witley station for lunch. We had been lucky - the rain stopped after the first hour, - we even had some sunshine.

Our return to Hindhead was to be mainly on the Greensand Way through Brook, crossing the A3 and up the East side of the Punchbowl, finishing with a good steep hill to the car park. Inspite of the poor weather start, everyone had a good 18 mile stretch. Thank you Peter. *Elizabeth Bryan*

### **Report : Saturday walks and Sunday AGM at Weymouth**

11/12 March 2000

The Dorset Group had arranged four walks for this year's AGM - 25 miles, 19 miles, 13 miles and 9 miles. There were also a few cars arranged to take non-walkers on a sightseeing tour of the area. Amongst the non-walkers were John Sparshatt (trapped nerve) and Ted Marsh (foot/leg injury), our Events and Publicity officers respectively. I joined the 9 mile walk which took us around the coastal path of Portland, admirably led by Madelain Hensley, wife of Environment Officer Graham, and other members of the Dorset Group. It was a beautiful day and a very interesting walk. I will describe it more fully in Strider, if the Editor chooses to print it of course. Following dinner this year's speaker, a Dorset area Path Warden, spoke about his work in the area. This was followed by the Barn Dance, once again expertly called by LDWA's one and only Ken Falconer. The AGM, on Sunday morning, saw two changes on the Committee. Roger Michelle, having completed his tenure of office, and Les Maple (that's me) stood down. Geoff Saunders and Chris Chorley (Norfolk and Suffolk) were elected. Ken Falconer became the LDWA Chairman. Two amendments of the Constitution were passed. Interesting debates followed on the subjects of Postal Voting and Membership Fees. There is no change however - Fees remain as they are for another year and the Committee were instructed to look at Postal Voting in more depth and come back next year.

*Les Maple*

Probably the hardest part of the walk was to find the car park! However clever I did and by the stroke of 9.30 we set off up the South Downs Way towards Chantrybury Ring, easily identified in the distance by the ring of trees perched on the earthworks surrounding the site. The trees were planted by Charles Goring of Wiston House, visible below the hill, in 1760. To ensure they thrived he carried water up to them every day. Quite a task.

After our visit we dropped down the hill into Washington and then followed a low level route to reach Storrington. We passed the gliding club and then we entered Parkham Park, a surprisingly large deer park containing Parkham House which dates from Elizabethan times. After the exit we headed for Amberley Wild Brooks and followed the edge of them via Rackham Mill to arrive at the Sportsman pub for lunch. The message I had left on the previous day had not been passed on but it did not matter. The food was good and the speed of service even better.

On full stomachs we slowly climbed the steep track by the chalk pits taking our time to the SDW. From there it was easy; we just followed the signs until we arrived back in the car park. Many thanks to all who joined me on this mid week outing.

*Brian Haigh*

### **British Womens' Antarctic Expedition 2001/2**

**Have you got more than what it takes?**

**Can you be the fittest of the fit in mind and body?**

**Do you have a Polar Dream and a thirst for a World Record?**

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For details send a C4 SAE enclosing 4 first class stamps to :

Susan Denham-Smith, 6 Copper Beech Manor, Copper Beech Drive, Gamesley, Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 6DA

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A poor weather forecast and the wet conditions over previous days led to a small turnout for this Thursday walk. However a group of seven gathered on a minor road two miles North of Midhurst thankful that the early morning deluge had ceased. We walked through forest and farmland to the outskirts of Easebourne (some members of the party mistook a pensioner walking her dog for a waddling duck). We also learned how we should listen to three different weather forecasts and discard the two which forecast the worst weather. (but then I suppose that those walking on a day like this are probably a little eccentric). Now we skirted the North end of Cowdray Park and up a steep ascent for a coffee stop looking across to a misty Leggatt Hill. The rain now started again and would continue for the rest of the morning. Now across farmland and past some attractive ponds, which fortunately had not flooded, to our lunch stop at the upmarket Lickfold Inn. The roaring log fire was most welcome as was the real ale and the good quality food. The brandy produced by one member was added to hot chocolate and beer! The rain was still sheeting down.

Eventually we left the dry pub moving northwest through the derelict glass houses of Hurstfold Farm then through the very maddy Verdley Wood to Henley. Then along the side of a steep hill through forest to the radio/TV mast at Bexleyhill and now down past Grevatts farm and more mud to play in and back to our cars. Personally I much enjoyed the walk in spite of poor weather and maddy conditions. The walk was led by Elizabeth who chose an attractive route with good views (although somewhat spoilt by mist on this day). Many thanks.

*Michael White*

#### Steers Field Signs

Following reports from Avril and Janet that the National Trust omega sign at the Bus Shelter entrance to Steer's Field is missing. I phoned the National Trust and it was suggested that I contact John Cranham who is the warden for the area.

It seems that 35-40 NT signs have been stolen recently from the area and that all spare signs have been used up. The signs are made of hand-cast aluminium and are probably stolen for scrap. However, John says, as the price of aluminium is very low at present, the scrap value may be only 50p per sign. The signs used to cost roughly £40 each (new price unknown)

John says that he personally would like the signs to be made of carbon fibre; they would look very similar to the present signs, would be much easier and cheaper to make and have no scrap value.

John fears that all the Steer's Field signs may have disappeared. The sign at the entrance into the Forestry Commission area at the western end of the field has already had to be replaced several times. A new order is being placed but I think we may be thinking of 3 months or so before delivery.

*Ann Sayer*